

Insights from U.S. on re-opening universities and Higher Education

Georgetown University:

<https://georgetown.app.box.com/s/f390hofa49c66xwsblml13od61acjf9r>

(1) **Viral Testing:** All students (including students living in the neighborhoods directly adjacent to the Main Campus), faculty, staff, and other members of the University community will be required to complete a COVID-19 test before initially returning to any of Georgetown's Washington, DC, campuses. At-home RT-PCR test kits will be shipped to all individuals living in the United States who will be returning to campus or the neighborhoods directly adjacent to the Main Campus, to the extent practicable, to facilitate this testing. Upon arrival to campus or the surrounding neighborhoods for the first time in the semester, all members of the University community will be tested again within 24 hours. A third test will be required within 5 days of arrival. Georgetown also will deploy routine, randomized, and asymptomatic testing to proactively monitor for signs of community spread on campus.

(2) **Symptom Monitoring:** Daily pre-arrival symptom screening will be required for all students, faculty, staff, contractors, and visitors to campus. This will include a self-attestation of symptoms and temperature through a mobile application or, where necessary, questionnaire, which will result in a daily badge certifying risk level and suggested actions and consultation with a primary care provider if symptoms warrant.

(3) **Quarantine & Isolation:** Self-quarantine will be required for University community members based on a physician or care provider's recommendation, public health recommendations, close contact with an infected person, or CDC or District of Columbia travel guidance, for the period of time required by public health officials. Isolation will be required for all individuals who have a confirmed positive COVID-19 test result for the period of time required by public health officials. Georgetown will provide dedicated isolation spaces for those individuals who test positive, live on campus, and are required to isolate, including rooms at the Georgetown University Hotel and Conference Center on the Main Campus and the Gewirz Student Center at the Law Center. Daily health and support services will be offered to those in self-quarantine or isolation who live on campus.

(4) **Monitoring Public Health Conditions:** An integrated dashboard, with metrics including numbers with COVID-like illness, positive tests, numbers in isolation and self-quarantine, numbers in hospital, and regional public health data, will be utilized to monitor aggregate campus health and respond accordingly, protecting individual privacy to the extent possible while protecting public health.

(5) Georgetown has instituted a university-wide moratorium on travel until further notice. We have suspended all university-sponsored and supported international and domestic air and train travel, including travel funded by a grant, foundation, company, or another university. We have suspended all university-sponsored or related student travel, including cancelling Fall 2020 study abroad and exchange programs.

Taiwan's National Strategy: <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M20-2927>

1. Initial quarantine (enforced)
2. Frequent testing of all students
3. Sanitation
4. Mandatory Masks
5. Distancing (at least 2m)
6. Reduction of student density
7. Cleaning of dorms twice daily with bleach, and allowing only one student per dining table.
8. Mandatory quarantine for anyone exposed, and infection-number thresholds at which an entire university would shut down.

Review of Policy Evidence (led by Prof Gavin Yamey, Duke)

1. There have been outbreaks on college campuses including UNC-Chapel Hill and Boise State. These are often traced to college town bars popular with students. COVID-19 deaths are rare among college age students but have been several in the U.S. including at Penn State, Utah Valley University and USC.
2. Mandatory Masks should be instituted for all classroom/inside teaching, however are not a silver bullet.
3. SARS-CoV-2 can linger in the air and form tiny droplets (aerosols) that can infect people as they breathe in. These can transmit farther than 6 feet, and in the absence of constant and effective ventilation, can remain airborne for at least 3 hours.
4. College and universities are 'congregate' settings that create a setting where transmission is likely. This includes in dormitories, dining halls, athletic training, parties, bars and clubs- all could become 'superspreading events'.
5. Surveys with college students indicate that university students are not likely to self-report symptoms, or adhere to quarantine. A survey of 2698 students for Univ of Connecticut revealed that every student said quarantine is not realistic and will fail. They also said that if they develop COVID-19 symptoms, they may not report them. If they become infected they'd be reluctant to tell the university about their contacts, especially those at bars. Just telling students not to do things is not a reliable policy.
6. Gavin notes that 'For the city where a campus is based, reopening will be like dropping a cruise ship into the centre of town- and giving passengers free rein.'