Reopening Higher Education

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Higher Education Subcommittee, Governor’s Reopen CT Task Force
Our approach

- Wide consultation

- Keen appreciation of the importance of higher education to our economy and to the lives and future careers of nearly 200,000 students

- Mindful of the heterogeneity of colleges and universities, we have developed a phased plan for reopening.
Institutional heterogeneity => Different risks, different timetables

- **Undergraduate**
  - Lower risk
  - Open when businesses open

- **Graduate**
  - Lower risk
  - Open when businesses open

- **Nonresidential**
  - Nonresidential

- **Residential**
  - Residential

- **Higher risk**
  - Higher hurdle for reopening

- **Medium risk**
  - Intermediate hurdle for reopening

- **Age cohort**
  - Graduate
  - Undergraduate
Safety => Public Health requirements for all
Heterogeneity => Each campus has its own plan

- The State must establish “gating” conditions for reopening.
- Each college and university must develop its own plans for reopening.
- The situation is fluid; we don’t know today whether the gating conditions will be met in time for a full reopening of campuses in the fall.
- Schools need to be flexible; ready to open and ready to move online if needed.
Gating Conditions: what must be in place to reopen safely

- Steady decline in hospitalizations
- An adequate number of tests made available
- Capacity for contact tracing
- Statewide guidelines on physical distancing, density, and wearing of facemasks
- Adequate supplies of PPE and facemasks
- Adequate hospital/health care surge capacity
- A limited safe harbor from liability
Public Health Guidance for Colleges and Universities in Connecticut

Each specific guidance will be in force until relaxed by the State
Institutions may choose to impose stricter guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guidance Element</th>
<th>Specific Guidance</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social distancing</td>
<td>• 6 feet of separation whenever possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Density of classrooms, dining halls, and other areas where groups congregate</td>
<td>• 6 feet of separation between occupants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Density of dormitories</td>
<td>• Roommates and suitemates treated as a family unit. 6-foot spacing preserved with other dorm occupants.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• [Density of bathroom use TBD]</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Students with pre-existing health conditions should be assigned to single-occupancy rooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal protective equipment</td>
<td>• All faculty, staff and students should wear masks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disinfection</td>
<td>• Hand sanitizer available at entrances to all buildings, classrooms, and dining halls</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Disposable wipes available in all bathrooms, classrooms, and other shared facilities (e.g. copy machines, coffee stations, etc.) for wiping down surfaces touched before and after every use</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Frequent hand-washing and frequent deep cleaning of bathrooms and other high touch areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>• Avoid unnecessary travel domestically and internationally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty/staff work from home</td>
<td>• Whenever possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty/staff advised to stay home</td>
<td>• Initially, those 65 and over and/or those with high risk factors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening</td>
<td>• Faculty, staff, and students should monitor their own symptoms and report them to health care providers</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Reopening plans to be developed by each institution

A plan for *repopulation* of the campus

A plan for *monitoring* health conditions to detect infection

A plan for *containment* to prevent spread of the disease when detected

A plan for *shutdown* if it becomes necessary
# Timeline for Reopening Colleges and Universities in Connecticut

Earliest dates shown for each phase; institutions may open any time thereafter. Exact timing will depend on meeting public health criteria.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 1a: May 20th</th>
<th>Phase 1b: Beg of June</th>
<th>Phase 2: Jul/Aug</th>
<th>Phase 3: Sept 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research programs</td>
<td>Nonresidential workforce programs</td>
<td>Other nonresidential programs</td>
<td>Undergraduate residential programs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nonresidential clinical/laboratory courses required to complete degrees</td>
<td>Graduate programs</td>
<td>Boarding schools¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other nonresidential programs</td>
<td>Undergraduate residential small-scale pilot programs</td>
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</tbody>
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¹ While part of K12, boarding schools have same characteristics as residential colleges.
