



VIRGINIA TECH

Interim

Summer/Fall 2021

COVID-19

OPERATIONAL PLAN

April 2021

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SUMMER AND FALL 2021 SEMESTERS UPDATE

INTRODUCTION

On Aug. 3, 2020, Virginia Tech executed an operational plan and SARS-COV-2 mitigation strategies designed to minimize the spread of COVID-19 while allowing the community continued pursuits in academics, research, and outreach. Virginia Tech continues to employ a strategy that permits sufficient flexibility to adapt to the challenges of the evolving global pandemic in balance with the university mission.

As Virginia Tech transitions into summer 2021 and looks toward fall 2021, planning and mitigation strategies continue to account for and respond to emerging issues. Virginia Tech is maneuvering COVID-19 mitigation strategies and operations to keep pace with state and federal regulations and guidance with an emphasis on supporting vaccination efforts. Virginia Tech continues to work closely with the Virginia Department Health (VDH) in support of registering personnel for vaccinations. Virginia Tech has implemented processes to identify and register personnel eligible to acquire vaccinations at each phase, and will continue to support these efforts with a goal of vaccinating every eligible community member who chooses to be vaccinated.

SUMMER 2021

Virginia Tech will conduct a hybrid in-person/on-line residential summer semester with a goal of approximately one third of courses offered as fully in-person. Prior to COVID, Virginia Tech offered approximately 50 percent of courses online, and this increase of in-person courses is a substantial milestone transition towards an anticipated more-normal fall 2021 semester. In-person classes will adhere to existing COVID mitigation strategies such as: vaccination promotion, face coverings/masks, six feet of physical distancing (note this may be modified as new guidance is received from local, state, and federal health agencies).

Virginia Tech is planning a virtual orientation for the summer of 2021 with the potential for streamlined, abbreviated in-person welcome programming immediately preceding the start of the fall 2021 semester. This programming, designed to supplement the virtual orientation, will be dependent on myriad factors including disease rates, vaccination rates, and operational impacts.

The use of laboratory space on campus will remain consistent with the approach for the spring 2021 semester, to permit graduate and undergraduate student use with requirements to adhere to COVID-19 mitigation strategies. These mitigation strategies include vaccination promotion, face covering/masks (addressing the highest hazard), distancing, capacity limits, and space coordination when appropriate. Additionally, Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) and in-person laboratory experiences typical of summer semesters will be allowed, again provided adherence to current COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

Virginia Tech will also allow camps and conferences meeting specific criteria and requiring adherence to COVID-19 mitigation strategies consistent with requirements for all community members since Fall 2020 as amended and updated per regulations, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, and internal policy. See *Summer Camps and Conferences* on page 7. The Summer 1 session runs from May 24 through July 2. And the Summer 2 session runs from July 7 through Aug. 13. Summer 2021 orientation will be conducted virtually as a strategy to minimize the risk of COVID-infection for incoming students and families.

UPDATED MITIGATION STRATEGIES

PODS

The Division of Student Affairs manages a pod program, allowing students to formally establish a limited group of peers with whom they can spend time and engage in the collegiate experience. Pods are small groups of students who are able to interact with each other more closely and in a more relaxed, unmasked environment. Pods are a tool to help students expand social circles and create closer connections, while incentivizing individuals to follow CDC guidelines and maintain a healthy community. In order to do so, students in a pod make a commitment to rigorously follow safety measures, including vaccination, face coverings, and physical distancing when interacting with anyone outside of the pod. Virginia Tech, in concert with public health officials and input from VDH, will decide on the impact of vaccines to the pod program prior to the start of the fall 2021 semester.

Virginia Tech has a pod registration system that will also help clarify acceptable behavior in student rooms based on who is in the room at a given time. Students will be required to register their pod by the end of the second week of classes. Students can create their pod in the Divisions of Student Affairs' StarRez portal. The pod program offers a COVID-19 mitigation strategy designed to facilitate a richer collegiate experience in defined social engagement settings while minimizing the risk of exposure to the virus.

TESTING STRATEGY

Virginia Tech's testing strategy is primarily using RT-qPCR testing for students and employees through the Schiffert Health Center and associated vendor-operated testing clinics. Schiffert Health Center's focus is on symptomatic testing by appointment. The testing clinic is dedicated to non-symptomatic individuals, to include prevalence and surveillance testing when applicable.

Virginia Tech also employs wastewater testing as a sentinel to residence hall illness at the Blacksburg campus. This technique was developed and implemented with internal expertise. The results of this assessment process in combination with other disease-spread indicators (e.g., past illness of residents) are used to support decision-making around public health, and can be used to target subpopulations for individual testing.

The summer and fall 2021 testing strategies include voluntary testing, mandatory testing, and adaptive approaches temporally corresponding to need. Virginia Tech has employed specific testing scheduling to optimize testing throughout the pandemic, primarily for the student population. Scheduling details will be released prior to the start of semesters where this strategy is implemented. If a non-scheduled approach is taken, hours of operation and associated types of testing (e.g., prevalence, surveillance, move-in, event-specific) will be publicized to the appropriate community members.

Testing space and equipment will be continuously cleaned throughout the operational time period. All samples will be transported to Roanoke for processing by the Virginia Tech Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory (part of the OneLab Network Tier 2 laboratories).

Virginia Tech has also established a testing program for students and employees in the greater Washington, D.C., metro area and Roanoke area, corresponding with the most significant number of Virginia Tech employees and students operating outside of the Blacksburg campus. This testing strategy also includes the PCR method and is expected to continue at a rate sufficient to manage the need throughout the public health response to COVID-19.

Members of the Virginia Tech community may be exempted from prevalence and/or surveillance testing if they have recorded their full vaccination with Virginia Tech. Historical data, in context with new findings, indicate that this exemption poses little risk to disease spread while optimizing the balance between consistent testing and student/employee consideration. Virginia Tech will continue to strive towards a new normal through a strategic recovery process, eliminating or reducing COVID-19 mitigation strategies as appropriate with input from public health experts.

RESIDENTIAL HOUSING ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

Virginia Tech has established isolation/quarantine space in residence halls on the Blacksburg campus in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and will continue to offer this service until such time as it is determined not to be necessary from a public health perspective. Current isolation/quarantine space includes outdoor space, food delivery service, and a support and care service for individuals in isolation/quarantine.

The isolation and quarantine space will be available to any persons qualifying as a resident of Virginia Tech housing on the Blacksburg campus. This includes persons using the residential space for multiple-day events on the Blacksburg campus.

Virginia Tech recognizes that changes to isolation and quarantine durations from the CDC can impact the existing isolation and quarantine process. Virginia Tech, in consultation with the New River Health District, will adjust as appropriate, balancing the risk of disease spread with testing resources, capacity, and individual well-being.

CASE MANAGEMENT

A university-wide Case Management Team (CMT) and associated program has been established to support the needs of employee and students. The CMT will continue to operate through the summer and fall of 2021 as determined by need for services, or until no longer required by university leadership.

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

Virginia Tech will continue to seek methods and offer means for social engagement in a safe and responsible manner. In combination with public health requirements and federal, state, and local guidance, Virginia Tech will adjust limitations on social engagement as appropriate.¹

The COVID-19 Events Working Group at Virginia Tech maintains criteria and guidance to facilitate engagement programming and university-sanctioned events to promote conduct consistent with mitigation strategies. These criteria and guidance will continue through the fall 2021 semester and are designed to flex with public health requirements and regulations. The Events Working Group will continue to implement this process, adjudicate on event requests specific to COVID-19 risk, provide guidance and support for event conduct, and adapt to changes in public health guidance until the working group is demobilized.

SUMMER CAMPS AND CONFERENCES

Conference groups for summer 2021 will be limited to university-affiliated groups, and to maintain an efficient and high-quality customer experience in the dining hall(s), group sizes may be limited. Residence hall room occupancy will be limited to single rooms. Short-term camps/conferences will only be offered during the months of May, June, and July to ensure ample time for fall semester

¹ Note: Virginia Governor Executive Order, EO-72 as amended.

preparations. A variety of non-residential day camps often eat one or more meals in the dining halls each summer. To allow for adequate flow in and out of the dining halls, the number of participants in summer school, long-term stay guests, short-term conferences, and day camps using Student Affairs facilities may be capped at 750 people at any given time. All participants will be encouraged to be vaccinated, when eligible, prior to attending.

Conference Guests Testing:

- Each group coming to campus will need to have participants submit verification to the group sponsor of a negative COVID-19 test administered within 72 hours prior to arrival.
- Group members will be advised to self-quarantine from the time immediately following their COVID test until their arrival on campus.
- Sponsors will be required to sign a form that states they are responsible for collecting and maintaining records of COVID materials.
- Schiffert Health Center will not be available to non-students.
 - Summer conference and research groups will be advised to seek treatment from Velocity Care or other urgent care providers in the area.

Conference Guests Masking/Distancing Guidelines:

- Single occupancy rooms will be used for short-term conferences.
- Facial coverings are required when outside of assigned residence hall room. Facial coverings will also be required in any gathering of two or more people not sharing the same residence hall room. This includes individuals who have previously tested positive for COVID and those who have had a vaccination.
- When gathering in groups of two or more people (inside or outside), physical separation of at least six feet, but not replacing the mask requirement.
- Exceptions for masking including eating while seated in a dining center or when in the bathroom/shower; however, while moving within those areas, guest must be masked.
- Conference sponsors are responsible for creating events and programs that match university, health department, and other regulatory body requirements.

Dining Operations:

- Guests will be scheduled for breakfast, lunch, and dinner periods to reduce crossover/congestion with summer school residents and between groups.
- Guest dining will be controlled by ID cards, which will be sanitized before distribution and will use barcodes and barcode readers so that guests will not need to hand dining cards to dining workers.
- Dining operation location will be determined by demand. Menus will be designed to allow for proper COVID restrictions and standards and will likely impact offerings associated with years past.
- All self-service food stations will be removed and all food items will be served by dining employees. Beverage stations would be available for guests to dispense their own beverages
- Dining cleaning protocols currently in place will continue into the summer, and will be adjusted to align with current VDH and CDC recommendations

2021 Residence Hall Cleaning:

- Housekeeping staff will be cleaning restrooms and high-touchpoint areas such as elevator buttons, water bottle filling stations, and door handles multiple times a day.
- To reduce the risk of exposure to COVID, residence hall rooms and common spaces will be left vacant between groups for at least 48 hours to ensure ample time for cleaning.
- Before, during, and after each conference, housekeeping staff will provide cleaning of bathrooms, hallways, lobbies, lounges, and other high-traffic/high-touchpoint areas within the residence halls.
- Hand-sanitizing stations have been placed near all residence hall entrances and elevators.
- Should a guest become ill, a full decontamination protocol will be enacted.

ATHLETICS SPORTS CAMPS

Virginia Tech intends to conduct athletics sport camps throughout the summer in accordance with Virginia Executive Order 72 (as amended), and in accordance with local and Virginia Tech COVID mitigation strategies. These camps will implement vaccine promotion, when eligible, screening, masking, cohorts, signage, and other COVID mitigation strategies to effect the safest possible experience. *Appendix A Athletics Sports Camps* includes specific protocols and guidance for this category of camps.

UNIVERSITY VISITS AND CAMPUS TOURS

Beginning June 1, Virginia Tech will resume in-person visits and conduct campus tours in support of interested potential students and other university activities. Visits will require all parties to adhere to all current COVID-19 mitigation strategies in place at the time of the visit. Tour groups will also be required to adhere to COVID-19 mitigation strategies at the time of the tour, and all tours will be restricted to groups of 25 or less people or current requirements.

Tour Groups

Enrollment Management will conduct tour groups limited to appropriate numbers in accordance with social gathering restrictions. Specific COVID mitigation factors will be consistent with those applicable to students and employees while on campus. Tour groups will be provided both required and suggested COVID-mitigation strategies prior to their scheduled tour.

VACCINATIONS

SUPPORT AND DISTRIBUTION

Virginia Tech and the New River Health District maintain a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for an Open Point of Distribution (POD) originally conceived to leverage assets Virginia Tech can offer in partnership with VDH to broadly distribute public health prophylaxis. Virginia Tech will activate the Open POD MOU and support the New River Valley community through partnership with VDH.

Virginia Tech, based on information from VDH, anticipates progression of vaccination distribution to Phase 1C by May 1. Virginia Phase 1C eligibility includes institutions of higher education faculty/staff. Therefore, Virginia Tech anticipates all employees will have the option to be vaccinated prior to the beginning of the first summer 2021 semester. This assumes the vaccination distribution paces with current expectations.

In support of mass vaccination for Phase 1C, Virginia Tech has developed a plan to leverage Lane Stadium for up to 10,000 people per day. This plan will be detailed in a separate document, but will include the process for VDH-managed vaccinations with logistical and facility support provided by Virginia Tech personnel and VDH volunteers. The New River Health District will be the primary manager of vaccinations for Lane Stadium vaccination clinics. Virginia Tech may also support other on-campus

vaccination clinics and/or alternate facilities as determined appropriate based on need and vaccine availability, in concert with the NRHD, VDH, or private entities with access to vaccines.

Virginia Tech does not control vaccines or the process/prioritization of distribution; however, Virginia Tech strongly encourages all community members to be vaccinated if appropriate for them, and intends to support the broadest distribution possible given dose and logistical constraints. Similarly, Virginia Tech continues to support the vaccination of students when appropriate in coordination with the NRHD/VDH.

It is important to note that vaccinations in total, or as a percentage of the community vaccinated, will not be the sole determining factor for reduction in COVID-19 mitigation strategies. Disease-spread reduction, public health officials (i.e., VDH and NRHD), and overall community safety, in addition to regulatory requirements and CDC guidance will drive decisions around COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

DASHBOARD

Beginning Aug. 17, 2020, Virginia Tech published a COVID-19 dashboard with the intention of broadly communicating the known disease-spread indicators for the Blacksburg Virginia Tech community. Initial data began with Aug. 3, 2020, as the first testing was completed by Virginia Tech's testing clinic managed by Schiffert Health Center and Division of Student Affairs. Each subsequent day, the dashboard is updated with the most recent testing results, with typically an approximately 24-hour lag from completion of laboratory analysis. Each update indicates the number of test samples analyzed with determinate results, the number of positives therein categorized by university affiliation, the number of beds occupied within isolation and quarantine space on campus, the 7-day moving average of positive test results, the 7-day moving average percentage of positive tests. On Sept. 29, 2020, Virginia Tech added an estimated number for inactive cases with appropriate definitions to support a transparent method of longitudinal impact assessment of active cases on a given day. Virginia Tech may add additional metrics to the COVID-19 dashboard if, and when, data are available, validated, and reliable. Virginia Tech strives to accurately inform the community about the impact of the pandemic to the community while respecting privacy, reporting accurately, and reporting impactful information. Virginia Tech will maintain this dashboard until COVID-19 is determined to be endemic or no longer affecting the university operations.

GLOBAL TRAVEL

The health, safety, and wellness of our students, faculty, and staff is of utmost importance. As such, policies and procedures are set in place to promote the health, safety, and security of members of the university community (employees and students) traveling outside of the United States for university-supported purposes.

Virginia Tech [Policy 1070: Global Travel Policy](#), does not authorize any university-supported international travel to locations where the CDC has issued a Travel Health Notice Level 3 or higher, either [due to COVID-19](#) or [non-COVID-19 related causes](#). Also, Policy 1070 does not authorize student university-supported international travel to locations where the U.S. Department of State has issued a [Travel Advisory Level 3 or higher](#).

Under extraordinary circumstances, individuals or group leaders can petition the Global Travel Oversight Committee (GTOC) for an exception to Policy 1070 international travel restrictions that are based on U.S. Department of State and CDC travel advisories. The petitioner is responsible for proving the necessity of travel and sufficient risk mitigation to merit travel approval. See the [Procedure to Request an Exception to Policy – International Travel](#). Waivers are not guaranteed and can be revoked at any time by the GTOC or the university president, as the situation progresses. Students seeking an exception

to Policy 1070 to study abroad for summer 2021 or fall 2021 should follow guidance available in [Pre-Flight Orientation](#).

Details and updates related to university-supported international travel and the COVID-19 pandemic can be found on the [COVID-19 International Travel and Study Abroad FAQ](#) website. Approved university-supported travelers are encouraged to follow [CDC international travel guidelines](#).

Non-vaccinated individuals should:

- Get tested 1-3 days before traveling out of the U.S.
- Get tested before flying to the U.S. (required for entry).
- Get tested 3-5 days after your trip and reduce non-essential activities.
- Do not return to campus for 7 days after your return, even if you test negative for COVID-19. Self-quarantine during this time.
- If you are not able to get tested after international travel, stay home for 10 days after travel before returning to campus.
- Self-monitor for symptoms.
- Wear a face covering and take other precautions during travel.

Fully-vaccinated individuals should:

- Follow all entry requirements and recommendations for your destination country.
- Get tested before flying to the U.S. (required for entry).
- Get tested 3-5 days after your trip and reduce non-essential activities.
- Self-monitor for symptoms.
- Wear a face covering and take other precautions during travel.

Domestic travel: There are no Virginia Tech restrictions regarding work-related domestic travel. However, VDH advises avoiding all non-essential travel. There are currently no requirements in place for quarantining after domestic travel. Continue to wear a face covering, maintain physical distancing, practice good hygiene, and monitor for symptoms. Refer to the [VDH travel site](#) for the latest information.

RESEARCH

[Placeholder for updated Research strategies]

FALL 2021

Virginia Tech anticipates returning to a more-normal semester in fall 2021, which begins Aug. 23 and ends on Dec. 15. A more-normal semester includes traditional classroom density, outdoor and indoor events with capacities consistent with pre-COVID numbers in most cases, and an expected return to social and recreational activities with increased capacities. While the look and feel of the campus environment is expected to return to some normalcy, Virginia Tech also plans to maintain testing capacity sufficient for prevalence and surveillance testing. Moreover, Virginia Tech is preparing to implement continued COVID mitigation strategies such as vaccine promotion, face coverings/masks, hand-sanitizer stations, increased air handling, and other facility-based approaches. Implementation of some or all COVID-19 mitigation strategies will be influenced by both internal and external factors and disease management metrics with input from VDH. A vaccination requirement for the fall semester is under evaluation by state as well as university officials. The move-in strategy for the fall 2021 semester will be consistent with guidelines and best practices that are in place at that time. It may require minimizing unnecessary person-to-person interaction as allowed by COVID-19 factors. This includes the potential to stagger arrival and departures of residential students, limitations on the number of people

allowed to support the student's move-in process, elimination of Hokie Helpers, changes in the timeframe for move-in, and prevalence testing targeting residential students. Adjustments to a traditional move-in process and subsequent experience will be determined based on COVID-19 factors leading into the move-in time period and may not be implemented, implemented in part, or implemented in whole to maximize the safety of students and families.

Virginia Tech faculty are expected to be on campus during the academic year with the majority of courses offered being in-person or hybrid (excluding programs that are delivered fully online). Virginia Tech anticipates that classrooms will return to 2019 capacities. For large course sections, remote delivery of courses designed for in-person or hybrid delivery may be appropriate according to health and safety guidelines at that point in time. Moreover, Virginia Tech anticipates that academic program and student support offices will reopen full-time and that services will be offered in-person. In-person services may be supplemented online. Office hours for department administration, academic programs, and support services should be held in-person, but also can be offered virtually.

1 PLAN

1.1 PURPOSE

This plan builds on the foundation established by the VTEM Fall 2020 COVID-19 Plan for the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to build a safe, effective, and cogent strategic path from a status of essential operations to full operations within the context of the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. This novel coronavirus pandemic has been dynamic and challenging to the Virginia Tech community and the institution. This plan recognizes the many unknowns in the public health realm, and balances those with the knowns in higher education: community, innovation, and resiliency. This plan provides specific approaches and mitigation strategies to optimize the educational and research experiences with currently known public health guidance.

1.2 DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this plan has been prepared for use by Virginia Tech. The information provided herein is operational guidance, recognizing that individual circumstance or events not anticipated by the plan may occur. The experience and judgment of those using the plan is an important consideration in how and when the plan is used. No warranty, guarantee, or representation is made by the university of the sufficiency of the information contained herein and the university assumes no responsibility in connection therewith. This plan is intended to provide guidelines for safe practices; therefore, it cannot be assumed that all plausible and non-plausible scenarios have been addressed in this document, or that other or additional information or measures may be required.

2 PRINCIPLES

The principles listed below guided Virginia Tech's decisions balancing a traditional Virginia Tech experience with the safety and well-being of the community in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- We affirm our highest priority is operating in as safe a manner as possible, and we are committed to science and the recommended public health practices as we continue the transition to an on-campus learning and research environment.
- We remain committed to our tripartite teaching, research, and outreach mission and its transformational impacts on the intellectual development of students and the economic vitality of the communities that we serve.
- We are committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion and reaffirm the Principles of Community and InclusiveVT, our individual and collective commitment to *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) in the spirit of community, diversity, and excellence.
- We are guided by the values and aspirations expressed in our strategic plan, "The Virginia Tech Difference – Advancing Beyond Boundaries."
- We acknowledge the value of the Virginia Tech student experience.
- We continue to rely on internal and external input from a wide array of stakeholders to guide our holistic, principles-based approach to operations.
- We pledge to communicate in a transparent, authentic, and timely manner so that all of Virginia Tech's stakeholders can make informed decisions as we meet the challenges ahead.
- We will make informed, data-driven decisions and operate within our resource capacity.
- We will be flexible and prepared, with resiliency and a sense of service that permeates the Hokie Nation.

3 OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

3.1 VIRGINIA TECH INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Virginia Tech Incident Management Team (VT IMT) is tasked and trained to address emergency incidents that affect the campus community, disrupt operations, and require innovative and novel solutions. The VT IMT has existed in its current format since 2014, training and exercising on incident response and management multiple times per year to maintain proficiency and develop new skillsets. The membership of the team and additional information about the team as a key organizational tool for incident response and management can be found in the Virginia Tech Crisis and Emergency Management Plan.

The VT IMT has been meeting continuously since early March 2020 when the team was activated in response to COVID-19 global pandemic. The VT IMT serves to coordinate response actions across the Virginia Tech enterprise, support leadership decision-making, document the incident, and collect and share data to appropriate stakeholders. The VT IMT will continue to serve in this role throughout the response and recovery phases of the COVID-19 pandemic until the unit is demobilized with approval from university executive leadership.

3.2 PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Virginia Tech has worked with many external partners and stakeholders throughout the incident and will actively engage with and maintain these relationships for the duration. Primary among them are VDH, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, the Town of Blacksburg, and Montgomery County (Virginia). In addition, Virginia Tech maintains campuses and facilities outside of the New River Valley and coordinates with regional representatives to support response and recovery for those community members living, working, learning and researching beyond the Blacksburg campus.

Through various mechanisms (including the New River Valley Public Health Task Force), Virginia Tech will continue to liaise with stakeholders in the development, implementation, and assessment of operational initiatives. Virginia Tech works closely with the New River Valley Health District, (540-585-3300). Interactions occur through several channels, including the New River Valley Public Health Task Force, the Virginia Tech Schiffert Health Center, and the inclusion of the New River Health District epidemiologists on university work groups. University personnel involved with COVID-19 health-related issues have 24/7 direct access to New River Health District personnel. Procedures are historically in place to coordinate health department and university responses to all communicable diseases, including COVID-19. These procedures have been enhanced to manage the specific challenges of the COVID-19 virus. As Virginia Tech becomes aware of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19, the SHC or occupational health staff from the Environmental Health and Safety office (EHS) will notify VDH to coordinate and provide additional information as requested (please note, the physician/health care provider is responsible for this immediate, confidential morbidity report to the VDH). If a cluster of cases is identified by VDH, the SHC and the Case Management Team will support local health department efforts to identify the at-risk population. Virginia Tech has established a Case Management Team to provide support to VDH, provide service, and streamline the process for those seeking support from the university across multiple areas. The Case Management Team will support all community members, inform monitoring, and eliminate duplication of efforts for those in isolation or quarantine. Medical professionals from EHS (Occupational Health) and SHC will act as liaisons to the VDH. In addition, team members will assist with outreach to students identified as contacts, including coordinating medical evaluation for residential students through SHC.

Given the complexities of such a broadly impacting incident and the number of stakeholders involved, it is imperative that specific processes and assigned responsibilities facilitate communications between the various entities.

Key regional stakeholders and partners include:

- Virginia Department of Health
- New River Health District
- Virginia Department of Emergency Management
- Town of Blacksburg
- Montgomery County (Virginia)
- Radford University

In addition, Virginia Tech has representatives on the New River Valley Public Health Task Force, enabling the university to liaise with representatives of surrounding communities, including key regional stakeholders and partners. The New River Valley Public Health Task Force also serves as a mechanism for communication between the surrounding communities and university.

The New River Valley Public Health Task Force [[https://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/departments/mc-news/2020/03/06/informational-resources-for-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)](https://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/departments/mc-news/2020/03/06/informational-resources-for-covid-19-(coronavirus))], convened in March 2020, comprises the New River Health District of the Virginia Department of Health; Lewis Gale Hospital Montgomery; Carilion New River Valley Medical Center; Emergency Services from Montgomery County; the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg; New River Valley Community Services; Montgomery County Public Schools; Virginia Tech; and Radford University. The Public Health Task Force meets multiple times per week and conducts COVID-19 testing within the health district. Moreover, the task force works to support outreach and facilitate interagency coordination in response to the global pandemic. Virginia Tech has several members on the task force representing public safety and communications.

4 CAMPUS OPERATIONS

The Virginia Tech community has consistently demonstrated resilience in response to the many disruptions and changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The rapid response of the community to shift instruction, research, and service consistent with public health requirements epitomizes the spirit of the Hokie Nation.

The students, staff, and faculty of Virginia Tech have normalized the manner in which we now learn, teach, conduct research, provide outreach, and engage with one another. This requires the commitment of the entire community and respect for fellow Hokies. To continue to foster and support community, Virginia Tech has identified and created resources for all community members (vt.edu/ready). Virginia Tech will implement operations to promote successful instruction, learning, research, and working environments. The success of this plan remains dependent upon the dedication of the entire community and the willingness to overcome individual challenges in support of one another.

4.1 PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE

4.1.1 GENERAL

Individual actions of community members will have the greatest potential to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Virginia Tech will work to support and encourage the adoption of the most current public

health guidance and the following mitigation strategies as the community returns to campus. In combination with this plan, Virginia Tech created a website (vt.edu/ready) dedicated to supporting the community's understanding of these concepts. Vaccination provides primary prevention of the disease. Strict adherence to appropriate mitigation guidance throughout each phase of the recovery process remains necessary. Virginia Tech will promote proper hygiene practices for the whole community.

4.1.2 GENERAL STRATEGIES

Current public health agencies and experts continue to recommend the following to prevent and contain the spread of COVID-19; however, as prevalence of vaccinations increase and disease spread decreases, it is expected that some of these requirements may change during the summer and fall semesters. Virginia Tech community members are expected to:

- Stay at/in their residences when ill or return to their place of residence if they become ill.
- Wear face coverings/masks covering the *mouth and nose* when in indoor spaces (e.g., classrooms, laboratories, meeting/conference rooms, dining halls, residence halls, student centers, library, hallways, lounges, atria, and other gathering points), and when outdoors and unable to maintain at least six-feet of physical distancing from other individuals who are not either vaccinated or family members; unless in a private room, office, or similar space.
- Use of face shields is expected for the following situations:
 - Any person seeking to communicate with the hearing impaired and for which the mouth needs to be visible, precluding a face covering/mask;
 - Persons with health conditions that prohibit wearing a face covering. Nothing in this document shall require the use of a face covering by any person for whom doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety because of a medical condition;
 - Lecturers in lieu of a face covering/mask, provided physical distances are maintained.
- Maintain at least a 6-foot physical distance from every person present at a location whenever possible. This includes hallways, atria, lounges, study spaces, and other gathering points.
- Use appropriate barrier protection when a minimum of six feet of separation is not possible and people must face each other, such as highly visited areas (reception desks and other check-in points).
- Conduct meetings in accordance with current CDC, state and local mitigation guidance and requirements. Where permissible, and weather-permitting, meetings may be conducted outside, while complying with required physical distancing and hygiene standards.
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or use hand sanitizer.
- Cover coughs or sneezes — cough into the sleeve or elbow, not into the hands.
- Regularly clean high-touch surfaces.
- Avoid shaking hands.

4.1.3 FACE COVERINGS/MASKS

Each member of the Virginia Tech community is expected to use a face covering/mask while indoors or when maintaining six feet of social distancing outdoors is unattainable, on campus according to, and subject to, public health guidance. A face covering, as defined by the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry, is “an item made of two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric that fits snugly against the sides of the face without any gaps, completely covering the nose and mouth and fitting securely under the chin. Neck gaiters made of two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric, or folded to make two such layers are considered acceptable face coverings.” Face coverings/masks should provide a good, comfortable fit. Because cloth face coverings are washable, reusable, and inexpensive to make,

they are recommended. Coverings that fit close to the face with no loose edges are the safest choice to use in labs/research spaces, shops, and similar spaces. Homemade and cloth face coverings should have several layers of fabric for added filtration. Face coverings will be provided to students and employees if they do not have their own.

4.2 PHYSICAL DISTANCING FOR INSTRUCTIONAL AND LABORATORY SETTINGS

4.2.1 INSTRUCTIONAL SETTINGS

Virginia Tech will look to return to a more normal class configuration in accordance with health guidance and commonwealth requirements as the university transitions to the fall semester.

The Virginia Tech community is expected to practice physical distancing and hygiene strategies on campus to reduce exposure and limit the spread of disease. To support this community-wide approach, Virginia Tech has implemented the following mitigation strategies to support public health:

- Access control: Spaces will be cleaned and access restricted when not in use to further limit the potential for contamination and spread.
- Furniture arrangements: Where feasible, furniture will be positioned or removed to encourage behavior consistent with physical-distancing guidance.
- Maintaining six feet of separation between occupants: Occupancy will be determined through evaluation of maximum density, respecting the 6-foot rule.
- Access signage: In appropriate spaces (i.e., multiple points of ingress and egress), signs indicate entryways and exit-ways to minimize face-to-face interaction and support physical distancing when entering and leaving classrooms.
- Space use: To minimize the potential for exposure, contamination, and spread, all community members are encouraged to use virtual meeting options rather than physical gatherings. Virginia Tech provides tools to support virtual collaboration and meeting to all employees and students.
- Virtual access: Meetings, conference, and other gatherings held in instructional spaces must conform to all health and safety protocols. Whenever appropriate and feasible, a virtual option is encouraged to support and encourage participation of vulnerable individuals.

4.2.2 RESEARCH LABORATORY SETTINGS

Face coverings (or respiratory protection if needed for a specific hazard) must be worn at all times while in labs/research areas and other spaces to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. However, anyone with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering/mask is not recommended by their medical provider or anyone who has trouble breathing is exempted, but must wear a face shield instead.

Laboratory spaces and equipment will be cleaned at the start and end of each shift, and access will be restricted when not in use.

Laboratory personnel must follow physical-distancing guidelines. Methods that laboratories can use to maintain physical-distancing requirements include:

- Form staffing teams and rotations/shifts for benchwork and use of equipment. Lab groups using shared space(s) and equipment will need to coordinate with each other to ensure that the rotations/shifts do not overlap.
- Assign workstations so that only one bench within a single bay is used (a bay is defined as a work area between two back-to-back lab benches), so that no personnel are working at benches facing directly across from one another.

- Limit the number of personnel present in the lab during each shift. For spaces occupied by multiple groups, principal investigators (PIs) and lab managers will need to coordinate with each other to maintain physical-distancing requirements among all personnel using the space.
- Assigning minimal staff or shifts to handle general laboratory tasks such as making media, setting up cultures, getting equipment up and running, cleaning glassware and autoclaving, and disposing of waste.

4.3 PHYSICAL DISTANCING FOR COMMON SPACE

Physical distancing will be supported in common spaces, including but not limited to informal study areas, residential lounges, the library and student commons, through placement of furniture and removal of seating as appropriate for the space.

4.4 CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

In conjunction with physical-distancing and personal hygiene strategies, Virginia Tech maintains a consistent, thorough, and deliberate cleaning and disinfection process. The university will manage cleaning of indoor spaces through frequent, thorough cleaning and access control.

4.4.1 CONSISTENT AND STRINGENT STANDARDS

The university's housekeeping teams follow stringent, documented standard operating guidelines for everyday maintenance and viral disinfection. Across the university, they remain highly proactive in support of illness prevention efforts. These efforts include:

- Stringent daily cleaning.
- Deep cleaning of campus buildings during non-peak times.
- Maintaining an adequate inventory of high-grade cleaning disinfectants and hand sanitizer.
- Enhanced employee training around chemical usage, handwashing, and provision of personal protective equipment.
- Following recommendations provided by the CDC and ISSA (cleaning trade association), Virginia Tech requires all housekeeping contractors/external vendors to follow these same stringent industry-level guidelines and the Facilities Department remains in constant communication with these vendors.

4.4.2 CLEANING TASK FREQUENCIES

The Facilities Department's standard operating procedures and practices include cleaning and disinfecting all common-touch surfaces using EPA-registered chemicals. Surfaces are wiped and left wet for effective dwell time.

- Restrooms/showers: All common-touch surfaces are cleaned and disinfected multiple times per day using EPA-registered chemicals as a first step in the process.
- Public spaces: All common-touch surfaces are cleaned and disinfected multiple times per day using EPA-registered chemicals.
- Floors/tiles: Public areas are spot-mopped daily; fully mopped weekly (with auto-scrub as needed); buffed monthly, and top-scrubbed, stripped, and recoated annually.
- Floors/carpet: Public areas are spot-vacuumed daily; fully vacuumed weekly; extracted annually; and interim cleaned as necessary.

4.4.3 LOCATIONS MAINTAINED BY THIRD-PARTY SERVICES

The approach to all campus locations, whether university owned or leased, will be as consistent and scalable as possible. Service frequency and scope in facilities maintained via third-party providers may vary based on location-specific or program-specific service arrangements.

4.4.4 PRIORITIZATION OF HIGH-TOUCH ITEMS AND SPACES

High-touch items, high-volume spaces, and public areas will receive priority. These include but are not limited to:

- Light switches (if manual)
- Buttons on food/drink vending machines
- Exterior/interior elevator buttons
- Exterior/interior handrails
- Exterior/interior glass windows on doors
- Exterior/interior doorknobs/levers/push handles
- Sink faucets/toilet fixtures/dispensers
- Other frequently used areas

In many high-volume settings, the Facilities Department is using electro-static disinfectant misting machines that increase the number of surfaces cleaned per hour and ensure hard-to-clean surfaces are disinfected. Prioritization of resources and spaces will provide the safest environment possible. As such, care for these spaces (private offices and workstations) will be shared with the user(s). The Facilities Department will continue routine floor care and will respond and address emergency issues as required.

4.4.5 AIR QUALITY

Ongoing preventative maintenance activities, including changing air filters and UV lights within HVAC systems, will occur regularly. Virginia Tech building HVAC systems on the Blacksburg campus will operate on maximum outside air unless and until such time as external temperatures preclude safely operating in this manner. Building HVAC systems on the Blacksburg campus are currently using, and will continue to use, MERV 13 filters for box and bag systems, MERV 11 filters for panel systems, and MERV 8 filters for pleated systems.

4.4.6 ALTERATION OF SPACES AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The university has taken actions to physically alter spaces consistent with minimizing exposure potential for community members, including decreasing density and adjusting traffic patterns of interior spaces. The university will also foster physical distancing in such ways as rearranging, removing, or barring access to classroom and common space seating, altering traffic flow in and out of buildings, installing appropriate signage, and installing hand-sanitizer stations at building entryways/exits and elevators.

4.5 CULTURAL CHANGE INITIATIVES

To maximize the effectiveness of the operational plans herein, Virginia Tech will continue to promote adoption of a community culture that understands, appreciates, and complies with public health guidance for mitigating, or slowing, the spread of disease. Cultural adaptation, by definition, challenges the status quo and requires motivation to initiate momentum toward the desired outcome. The Virginia Tech community demonstrated acceptance of new cultural norms consistent with public-health guidance and a community effort to support one another in minimizing the spread and exposure. The Virginia Tech community embodies our university motto of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve). The service ethos has a rich cultural history among existing personnel and programming. Virginia Tech will continue leveraging cultural strengths of students and employees toward a safer, more tolerant, and cohesive community, acting in unity to minimize our collective risks, better protect vulnerable individuals, and demonstrate leadership during challenging times.

5 STUDENT AFFAIRS

5.1 GENERAL

All university-sponsored programs, services, and events will be conducted consistent with CDC guidelines related to events and gatherings for institutes of higher education, Commonwealth of Virginia requirements, and Virginia Tech requirements. Community building is essential; Student Affairs is committed to a hybrid model that offers a virtual experience that complements and can substitute, when possible, for in-person experiences. In-person programs, services, and events will be offered only if adequate safety measures are in place to limit the spread of COVID-19.

5.2 RESIDENTIAL

In order to provide an on-campus living experience that promotes public health safety, Housing and Residence Life (HRL) will limit the number of students living on campus to no more than two people per room and require all on-campus students to sign a Health and Well-being Commitment. Consistent with previously stated university practices and industry standards, Student Affairs facilities will employ additional cleaning measures (also see section 4.4 above) to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Per normal course, all Virginia Tech residence halls are access-controlled with access provided only to residents for security purposes. This access control will also support efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

5.2.1 HEALTH AND WELL-BEING COMMITMENTS AND PRECAUTIONS

All students wanting to live on campus must review and sign a Health and Well-being Commitment as part of the re-contracting process. The main tenets of the commitment include a 10-day pre-move-in quarantine, practicing physical distancing and personal hygiene, use of face coverings/masks (also see section 4.1.3 above), avoiding public spaces, and self-isolating if identified as infected with COVID-19 or at-risk of infection. In addition to the Health and Well-being Commitment, Housing and Residence Life will provide access to hand-sanitizer stations in high-traffic areas of each hall. Housing and Residence Life will have some face coverings/masks available for students who do not have one, as well as isolation and quarantine spaces for students infected with or presumed positive for COVID-19. Health and well-being kits will be distributed. These kits will include two face coverings/masks, a thermometer, hand sanitizer, and tissues.

5.3 DINING SERVICES

To promote use of dining facilities in a safe and healthy manner, Dining Services will have limited sales to off-campus students for summer and fall 2021. Students will be served in dining facilities, in compliance with state standards relating to such facilities, including physical-distancing standards. For example, dining centers will maintain six feet of physical distancing for people in all line queues for ordering and pick-up. In order to accommodate the residential population, off-campus dining plans are limited and credit card sales will be allowed only as conditions change to support that operational shift.

Inside all dining facilities and the workspaces for employees in the “back of house,” physical distancing in spaces will be provided based on current guidelines and executive orders. Team member density and workstations will provide for proper spacing with regard to physical distancing. Dining Services has installed in excess of 270 Plexiglas dividers to provide separation between employees and customers. Face coverings/masks and gloves will be required of employees while in the work areas. Handwashing will be required every 60 minutes. If seating is permitted in the facilities, they will align with proper physical-distancing standards between chairs and tables. Peroxide-based disinfectant systems have been installed for employee use, as well as electrostatic sprayers, to assist in cleaning high-touch point areas.

Staff training is a critical part of our reopening procedures. All employees will receive training on COVID-19 safety and sanitation protocols and the personal hygiene guidelines. Employees will be encouraged to self-monitor temperatures and COVID-19 symptoms at home. All employees will be asked the Virginia Department of Human Resource Management's required attestation questions before entering the workplace. Training on proper use and disposal of personal protective equipment (PPE) will occur. Interviewing, onboarding, and training will be completed virtually as much as possible. New-hire orientation and food safety training and assessment will be completed online for all students. In-person trainings should be reduced in size to follow state and university guidelines.

More than 70 touchless payment systems have been installed and are in place throughout the entire Dining Services operation. A biometric reader, the Morpho Wave system, will be available at the entry point of the all-you-care-to-eat facility (Dietrick Dining Hall). This will allow student plan holders to gain access via a touchless entry method. All dining facilities have eliminated cash payment as a form of payment. Guests will no longer be permitted to use their own refillable water bottle or containers at the drink stations. All self-service areas except beverage dispensing have been removed. This includes but is not limited to self-service food stations, salad bars, condiment stations, and the like. Table caddies, tabletop napkin holders, and salt and pepper shakers have also been removed. Additional hand-sanitizer dispensers will be installed throughout the facilities, accompanied by signage to provide guidance and instructions on use. A portfolio of marketing pieces in print, on electronic menu boards, on information boards, and on social media outlets will be used to inform and instruct guests of proper protocol when present in dining facilities.

5.4 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Cranwell International Center is responsible for providing immigration and support services for more than 4,400 international students (undergraduate, graduate, and post-completion optional practical training employment authorization) at Virginia Tech. The center is also responsible for ensuring institutional compliance with the many federal regulations governing students' enrollment and/or employment. Pursuant to federal regulations, Virginia Tech provided an update to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) regarding "procedural adaptations" that may be relevant for the Virginia Tech international student population.

The Cranwell International Center will continue to process all immigration casework for international students electronically and paperless via an online enterprise software system, Sunapsis. The center will provide other support services via various modalities, including but not limited to Zoom, email, phone, and other online platforms, in addition to in-person appointments for students in Blacksburg as needed. The Cranwell Center webpage provides the latest information regarding international student requirements, including SEVP and DHS. Any new or returning international students residing on campus will be required to quarantine consistent with state, federal, and Virginia Tech guidelines, and to sign the university Health and Well-being Commitment.

6 EVENTS AND GATHERING SPACE

6.1 UNIVERSITY FACILITIES USAGE AND EVENTS

Virginia Tech Policy 5000 governs university facilities usage and events. While Policy 5000 remains in effect, several additional public health criteria must be met for approval of in-person events. Entities within Virginia Tech responsible for managing university facilities usage will evaluate event requests against the COVID-19-related criteria in addition to Policy 5000 requirements. Approval will be granted for event requests complying with Policy 5000, COVID-19 criteria, and availability of space. Virginia Tech

has created a risk-informed framework to facilitate a consistent approach to evaluating in-person event requests. Requests will also be considered in the context of Executive Order 72 (2020) as amended.

6.1.1 COVID-19 EVENT CRITERIA

Event requests during the COVID-19 pandemic will be assessed in terms of a risk-informed framework. This framework includes a set of criteria for each risk category to guide the event classification. These criteria, subject to change in accordance with public health guidance, will inform the event classification and subsequent approval process. The Virginia Tech Events Working Group has identified and assigned criteria to the appropriate risk-based categories.

The scheduling office will make the initial determination of the risk category based on the information supplied when requesting the space. For events consistent with minimal- or low-risk categories, the scheduling office will complete the adjudication process. The scheduling office will escalate the adjudication process for moderate- and high-risk categories to the Virginia Tech Events Working Group or the Virginia Tech Incident Management Team.

The Virginia Tech Events Working Group, tasked by the Virginia Tech Incident Management Team, will meet consistently to maintain, adjust, and support the implementation of the risk-informed framework guiding the adjudication for events through the summer of 2021.

6.2 LARGE EVENTS

Larger events will be considered under a high-risk classification and must follow the process established in Section 6.1, to include review and adjudication by the Virginia Tech Incident Management Team. Athletic events are subject to NCAA, ACC, and Virginia Tech policies, and will comply with all public health guidance. Large events are also subject to current executive orders, regulations, and public health guidelines. Events are required to be conducted in accordance with legal and public health restrictions.

7 SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING

The coronavirus pandemic and associated impact on community health, economy, and education continues to evolve. Maintaining a high-level of awareness of any new developments and public health guidance is paramount to managing an on-campus educational experience in accordance with the most appropriate mitigation strategies. Virginia Tech will work with internal and external stakeholders, partners, and peers to adapt operations to optimize safety, education, and operations for the university community. To accomplish this goal, it is important that any spread of disease be monitored to the extent possible under prevailing public health guidelines. Virginia Tech will use screening, testing, contact tracing, wastewater monitoring, and our partnership with the New River Health District to monitor the public health of the Virginia Tech community and surrounding communities.

7.1 SCREENING

Faculty, staff, and students are expected to monitor their health and report any symptoms to Schiffert Health Center (students) or their primary care physician (employees). Employees are expected to report to Human Resources and/or Environmental Health and Safety if their health care provider VDH indicates they should be tested for COVID-19. Students should inform the Dean of Students Office if the Schiffert Health Center, their primary care physician, or VDH indicates they should be tested for COVID-19. Virginia Tech has established a protocol to support off-campus students being tested for, or confirmed to have, COVID-19. Any students who are or have been quarantined, isolated, or confirmed to have COVID-19 should contact the Dean of Students Office as soon as they are able.

Virginia Tech will adapt its public safety mobile device app (“Hokie Ready”) for symptom attestation purposes (in addition to its existing public safety and emergency preparedness functions) via a voluntary self-reporting, secure, electronic format. Appearing on the “Hokie Ready” mobile app, Hokie Health is the COVID-19 symptom attestation tool that Virginia Tech employees and students can use prior to reporting for work (employees) or coming onto campus (students) to screen for the existence of any current COVID-19-related symptoms and any related exposure history if applicable. Hokie Health provides a rapid assessment and, if necessary, advises the user of any concerning results, along with support and guidance to direct their next steps. A web-based or paper-based screening tool will also be available for community members unable or unwilling to use Hokie Health. Virginia Tech will follow existing guidelines and processes for disciplinary action against students and employees who fail to comply with university or state requirements.

In some on-campus workspaces/facilities, employees may be further screened when arriving to work for each shift. A non-contact temperature scan may be implemented to prevent the risk of disease-spread based on the nature of the work being done. No employee will be allowed in shared workspaces if they are exhibiting any symptoms that the CDC associates with COVID-19.

7.2 TESTING

Several categories have been prioritized for testing as part of the Virginia Tech COVID-19 Testing, Tracing, and Case Management Plan. Students are strongly encouraged to secure a negative polymerase chain reaction COVID-19 test result within five days prior to returning to campus or show proof of vaccination documentation. Those who test positive for COVID are required to self-isolate in accordance with their local health department requirements before returning to a Virginia Tech location. Initial testing of residential students upon their return to campus will occur through a testing clinic coordinated by the Schiffert Health Center (SHC) during the move-in days. Residential students are required to participate in testing upon returning to campus. Screening and testing of residential

students upon return to campus will provide an initial snapshot of approximately 30 percent of the total student population. This on-campus population is representative of the student body as a whole, including students from areas of high prevalence, within and outside of Virginia. The Schiffert Health Center will maintain testing services for COVID-19 throughout the summer of 2021. The approach to testing for the fall 2021 semester will be scaled to need based on a combination of disease prevalence and vaccination reporting. Testing options are also available for students and employees through their primary care provider, urgent care, select pharmacies, and the local health department. Risk-based exposure for higher-contact areas will be evaluated, and the frequency and number of tests will be a function of the overall testing capacity and the prevalence of disease on campus and in the community.

Members of the Virginia Tech community may be exempted from prevalence and/or surveillance testing if they have recorded their full vaccination with Virginia Tech. Historical data, in context with new findings, indicate that this exemption poses little risk to disease spread while optimizing the balance between consistent testing and student/employee consideration. Virginia Tech will continue to strive towards a new normal through a strategic recovery process, eliminating or reducing COVID-19 mitigation strategies as appropriate with input from public health experts.

7.3 CONTACT TRACING

The VDH has extensive communicable disease investigation guidelines, including a contact-tracing program that will identify the highest-risk contacts of cases in the overall community. Virginia Tech is in a unique position to partner with the VDH in this effort and provide data in support of contact-tracing efforts through methods already practiced by the Virginia Tech Case Management Team, which will act as a liaison to gather additional information and provide assistance, as requested by the NRHD.

In addition to supporting the NRHD with contact tracing, as requested, Virginia Tech will proactively notify employees and students where known potential contact with a confirmed index case may occur. While not contact tracing, this approach will help to limit the spread of the disease in the workplace and congregant living settings.

7.4 ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

Virginia Tech has set aside residential space for purposes of isolating or quarantining residential students in support of public health containment. Residential students will be placed in quarantine when direct by a health care professional (e.g., epidemiologist, primary care physician, nurse/physician at Schiffert health Center) quarantine while being evaluated for COVID-19. Residential students who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be placed in isolation in accordance with the Student Affairs isolation protocol and public health guidance.

During the isolation period, these individuals are to avoid all unnecessary contact with others. The isolation period for symptomatic individuals or those who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be determined on a case-by-case basis by medical professionals. Isolated individuals will remain in a single room with a private bathroom for the duration of the isolation period, except for outdoor recreational time and as allowed by a healthcare provider. Necessary items, such as food, hygiene needs, and household items, will be brought to the isolation space in order to mitigate the spread of disease. Once cleared by medical professionals, students will return to their regularly assigned rooms. Once cleared, students will be able to resume attending in-person classes, programs, and events. When possible, rooms will be left vacant for a minimum of 72 hours to allow further virus decay before cleaning begins. Should circumstances require an expedited timeline, facilities staff will evaluate the circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

7.5 CASE MANAGEMENT

Virginia Tech has established a Case Management Team and a case management system to track, provide service to, and support affected community members. The case management system provides a single point of information shared across key university points of contact to minimize the burden on those seeking support from the university across multiple areas. This access-controlled system will support community members, inform monitoring, and eliminate duplication of efforts for those in isolation or quarantine, provided they seek support from the university.

8 ACCOMMODATIONS AND SUPPORT

8.1 COVID-19 AND THE ADA

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provides protection from discrimination for individuals on the basis of disability. During the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals with disabilities have the same civil rights protection to access employment in the public and private sectors, transportation, public accommodations, services provided by state and local government, and telecommunications services. Virginia Tech is, and will be, compliant with the ADA in any application of the law to COVID-19 challenges. Virginia Tech's Office of Equity and Accessibility and the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities will work with community members requesting accommodations to support any additional needs relative to the COVID-19 pandemic.

8.2 WHAT WE ARE DOING:

The Office of Equity and Accessibility's ADA and Accessibility Services have streamlined processes for employees with disabilities requesting accommodation in the workplace. The CDC has identified high-risk populations; however, it is important to note that only some individuals within the high-risk populations can utilize protections under ADA to obtain a workplace accommodation. Listed below are examples of those populations:

- Asthma
- Chronic kidney disease being treated with dialysis
- Chronic lung disease
- Diabetes
- Hemoglobin disorders
- Immunocompromised
- Liver disease
- Serious heart conditions

8.3 TELEWORK/REMOTE WORK

Virginia Tech supports the use of appropriate flexible and alternative work options for employees. This includes leveraging telework/remote work options as employees return to the workplace and continue to address work and life issues throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

8.4 LEAVE

Virginia Tech offers a variety of leave benefits to allow time off from work for employees to address various needs. In addition, the following leave programs are available as a result of the impact of COVID-19:

- Public Health and Emergency Leave (PHEL) is a benefit activated by the Commonwealth of Virginia for state employees as a result of the impact of COVID-19 and when remote work options are not available. This benefit is available to Virginia Tech full- and part-time faculty and staff and many wage employees who are impacted by the virus.
- The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) is an act of Congress drafted to respond to the economic impacts of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The legislation has two components that provide the following leave benefits: Federal Emergency Sick Leave (FESL/FMES) and Expanded Federal Family and Medical Leave (FFML). FFCRA is available to Virginia Tech full- and part-time faculty and staff and many wage employees who are impacted by the virus. FFCRA does allow exclusions for certain groups of employees from eligibility, such

as health care providers and emergency responders. While FFCRA leave provisions ended on Dec. 31, 2020, Virginia Tech will seek to implement any future leave options for employees that may be provided by federal or state legislation or executive orders.

8.5 POST-ILLNESS

Employees and students who test positive will be allowed to return to their normal schedules and activities on campus after they have been cleared by their primary care physician, Schiffert Health Center, and/or New River Health District. Employees are expected to engage with the university Case Management Team to communicate and verify completion of isolation and return to work dates. The Case Management Team will proactively contact individuals completing their isolation based on cases reported to the university for this purpose. The Virginia Tech Case Management Team will also continue to work with, and support, individuals in quarantine. All community members are encouraged to report their cases to the Case Management Team for support and resources.

9 HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

9.1 HOKIE WELLNESS

Disease outbreaks such as the current coronavirus pandemic can aggravate stress and levels of fear and anxiety. Any member of the community experiencing a crisis or medical emergency is encouraged to dial 911 immediately. Employees are provided the following university, state, and other resources available to provide emotional support during this difficult time:

- [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#) is available to offer emotional support to employees.
- Anthem at 855-223-9277
- Aetna at 888-238-6232
- Kaiser Permanente at 866-517-7042
- Optima Health Vantage HMO at 866-846-2682
- [Hokie Wellness](#) for employees: hokiewellness@vt.edu, 540-231-8878.
- [Employee Wellness at Home](#) site for additional information and resources.
- The CDC has created [this resource related to mental health and coping during COVID-19](#).

In addition, [Cook Counseling Center](#) provides mental and emotional well-being resources for students.

Anyone concerned about a Virginia Tech student being (or becoming) suicidal is instructed to call Cook Counseling Center at 540-231-6557 or consult one of these other [resources](#). The Cook Counseling Center number can be used during regular office hours or after hours to speak with a counselor.

9.2 SCHIFFERT HEALTH CENTER

9.2.1 HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

All health care providers within Schiffert are required to wear masks and to maintain physical distancing whenever possible. All providers are required to wash their hands prior to and after all interactions with patients. In addition, Schiffert will maintain a supply of medical-grade PPE for required use. Providers performing aerosol-generating procedures will be in full PPE and utilize the negative pressure room. Schiffert will coordinate submission of N95 respirators for decontamination with Environmental Health and Safety. Plexiglas barriers are installed in areas where there are face-to-face interactions with patients. Those staff who are high-risk are limited to seeing non-sick patients.

9.2.2 PATIENTS

All patients entering the health center are required to wear a face covering/mask. A face covering/mask will be provided if the patient does not have one, and face coverings/masks are available for purchase in the health center pharmacy. Public health announcements regarding COVID-19 are posted prominently in the front foyer, on television screens, and throughout the health center facility. Handwashing reminders are also posted throughout the health center. Hand-sanitizer dispensers are located throughout the health center, in every exam room, and in all provider offices. Visitors coming with patients will not be permitted to be present in the exam room or clinic area; they will be required to wait outside.

9.2.3 WAITING AREAS

There are separate waiting areas for sick and well patients, seating will be arranged to maximize distancing, and pagers will be used for patients waiting to pick up prescriptions.

9.2.4 EXAM ROOMS

Exams rooms are separated for sick and well patients, and there are policies in place for the cleaning of exam rooms between patients and at the end of day; EPA-registered disinfectants are utilized in addition to an electrostatic sprayer.

9.2.5 PATIENT CARE CONSIDERATIONS

- Students are encouraged to call the health center if they are ill.
- Mobile check-in will be available.
- All patients will have their temperature taken.

9.2.6 GENERAL OPERATIONS

Schiffert Health Center will operate normal hours (Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.), all staff will be on site, and all services will be available. Any changes or updates to operations will be communicated using, at minimum, the Schiffert Health Center and Virginia Tech websites.

9.2.7 ACTIVE COVID/PRESUMPTIVE COVID ACTIONS FOR SPACE, NOTIFICATION, COVERAGE

Once notification of a symptomatic or positive COVID-19 case for an on-campus student has been received, Housing and Residence Life will make contact with the student and provide the student of concern with instructions on how to retrieve items needed for isolation from their regularly assigned space. The student's access to their current space will be turned off three hours after the student receives instructions. As part of these instructions, Housing and Residence Life will relay that linens and basic necessities (i.e., plates, silverware, cleaning supplies, paper products, etc.) will be provided in the isolation space. Students will be required to bring clothing, medication, toiletries, hair dryers, and other needed personal items to the isolation space with them. Student Affairs' facilities staff will perform enhanced cleaning on all common pathways, common spaces, and bathrooms of the residence hall where the student resided pre-isolation.

Food

Students will place their orders using the GrubHub app, and staff will deliver meals to student rooms. Staff will knock, place meals outside students' doors, and walk away. There will be no contact with the students in isolation. Staff will wear appropriate PPE and be trained on appropriate cleaning protocols following delivery. Meal plans will be used for payment.

Trash Removal

Trash bags are provided to students in the emergency kit in their room. Students should place trash bags outside their doors for removal by 8 a.m. on Monday and Friday mornings. Student Affairs' facilities staff will collect and dispose of the bags during regular cleaning.

Laundry

Residents are provided a small bottle of laundry detergent in their emergency go-kit. To the extent possible, we encourage residents to use this detergent to wash necessary items in their sinks and air-dry them during the isolation period. If it is necessary for laundry to be removed from the isolation space to be washed, residents should reach out to Housing and Residence Life via email to coordinate.

Continued Student Contact

Housing and Residence Life will work with the Dean of Students Office to check in with the student regularly for the duration of the isolation period. Schiffert Health Center will call patients in isolation daily and patients in quarantine every other day to evaluate their health and symptoms.

9.3 COOK COUNSELING

The Cook Counseling Center will be operational during the summer/fall semesters, to include crisis on-call services, individual counseling, group counseling, psychiatry services, and resource workshops. All counseling offerings related to individual counseling, group counseling, and resource workshops may continue as tele-therapy during the summer 2021 and fall 2021 semesters. All crisis services will be in-person.

10 COMMUNICATIONS

10.1 INFORMING THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

University Relations has the lead for communications and has a coordinated and aligned effort that includes university leadership, all administrative areas, colleges, institutes, centers, locations, and units. All central platforms and tools are being leveraged to communicate all information related to the pandemic and the summer and fall semesters.

University Relations is informing and educating the campus and community by providing updates on policies, procedures, public health guidelines, and wellness information pertaining to academics, research, and operations. This effort is coordinated through the IMT and a centralized communications team. Strategic communications are regularly reviewed by the President's Cabinet.

Any information regarding university operations that the university community needs to know will be included in the Daily Email and on the VT News (VTx) site.

Every weekday morning, the Daily Email, which includes campus updates, is distributed to all faculty and staff members (roughly 11,500 recipients). Additionally, a public subscriber base of 13,000 readers also receives the Daily Email. In addition to the regular communications to students from Student Affairs, University Relations also sends an email regularly to inform students and parents of updates and information. All official social media accounts, central and campus-wide, are leveraged to communicate updates and public health guidance. Senior leadership and presidential-level communications are regularly used for updates and to reinforce policies and distributed by email.

Town halls, expert panels, and presentations will be scheduled as needed to help inform the community. These communications are offered virtually but may start to be offered with an in-person option as well, as CDC and VDH guidelines permit. University Relations maintains a close working relationship with the Town of Blacksburg to ensure consistent communication and messaging.

10.1.1 OBJECTIVE OF COMMUNICATIONS

The primary objectives for communications are to: (1) inform campus, providing transparency and clarity for the campus and community regarding summer and fall plans; and (2) educate on public health, policy, and operational changes by communicating key decisions and changes with a coordinated effort on outreach and education.

10.1.2 COMMUNICATIONS STAKEHOLDERS

- Virginia Tech Board of Visitors
- Blacksburg and the New River Valley
- Governor's office
- VDH and Joint Command Center
- University leadership

10.1.3 COORDINATED MESSAGES AT CAMPUS LOCATIONS

10.2 CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS

Virginia Tech's Crisis Communication Plan will serve as the primary plan to manage communications in response to changes in the pandemic status that are significant enough to warrant modifications to planned operations. Management of any crisis or emergency event is a complicated and multi-faceted task. Virginia Tech recognizes that many different audiences must be reached with information specific to their interests and needs. In an emergency or other crisis, effective and timely communication helps to protect life, public safety, and property, and upholds the long-term integrity of Virginia Tech.

In addition to the Virginia Tech Crisis Communications Plan, University Relations uses the Crisis and Emergency Management Plan to support the university's overall response to a campus emergency, specifically, the Emergency Support Function #14: Media Relations and Community Outreach and Annex A: Emergency Notification System Protocols. The senior associate vice president for University Relations, with the support of the assistant vice president for University Relations and other communicators as needed, work to provide an orderly and accurate flow of information.

11 CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Increased COVID Cases

The operational assumption for this planning is that the current trending of decreased positivity rates within the community and surrounding communities continues. While there is some expectation of temporary increases in positive test results at times, Virginia Tech will monitor trends and associated data to determine if there is a significant increase in cases. The existing data collection and analytical techniques will continue to serve as the source for this information, in concert with review from university leadership and public health experts.

Should the data indicate a significant and sustained increase in cases, the Incident Management Team and university leadership will evaluate all available mitigation strategies. University leadership will determine the strategy to combat an increase in cases and task the Incident Management Team with implementing the strategy as appropriate. Strategic options include community outreach, communications, increased testing, remote options for work and academic pursuits, additional limitations on gatherings, and myriad other options employed in the past year to manage the pandemic.

Vaccine Shortages

Virginia Tech does not control or manage any COVID-19 vaccines to date; however, a shortage in availability of vaccinations can adversely impact the university community. As a contingency option for such an occurrence, Virginia Tech may implement more stringent COVID mitigation strategies as required to manage disease spread. Virginia Tech recognizes vaccines as paramount to the overall recovery from the COVID pandemic, but identifies that rates of illness are the primary driver for changes to COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

Changes to Government Regulations, Guidance, and Executive Orders

With known uncertainty about the operating environment for the period covered within this plan, there is the potential for regulatory, guidance, and executive actions that may dictate or strongly influence university operations moving forward. The Incident Management Team will lead an effort to identify changes and recommend institutional response where warranted. University leadership is authorized to make changes to operating requirements as necessary.

The Incident Management Team (with subject matter experts and technical specialists) will make recommendations for strategy when the impact from updated regulations, public health guidance, or executive orders to operations is unclear. This approach has been successfully employed to date.

Community Impact

A natural aspect of post-crisis recovery is the potential for the affected community to suffer from disillusionment, or the disappointment resulting from realization that the new normal will not be the same as prior to the crisis occurring. Research indicates the probability for this to occur at a broad scale to the affected community and will coincide with the time period covered by this plan. The risk of severe disillusionment from COVID-19 is sufficient to recommend that the university seeks to manage this to the extent possible.

To manage this phenomena, Virginia Tech will implement several primary initiatives:

- Community-building programming and outreach
 - Departments and business units within Virginia Tech that are already focused on building a sense of community and promoting inclusivity will be tasked with focusing efforts around re-engaging students and employees as it is safe to do so.

- Communications to the university community will focus on the benefits of community engagement, socializing, and re-engaging with each one another. Additionally, communications will focus on identifying disillusionment and steps to combat potential negative outcomes.
- Institutionalize awareness
 - Virginia Tech will work with faculty, supervisors, and other lead roles on campus to implement a heightened sense of awareness around the institution for signs and symptoms of disillusionment. Virginia Tech intends to establish an awareness for potential issues and routes for reporting and obtaining resources to support community members in need.
 - Virginia Tech will work with primary stakeholders within the university to monitor post-crisis behavioral health as both a means to manage the community needs, and to remain flexible in approach to this issue.
- Promote community and resources
 - Virginia Tech will leverage existing resources along with culture-building toward inclusivity and community to further these principles with respect to recovery.
 - Specific departments and business units will leverage their programs to foster safe and appropriate gatherings and interpersonal interactions to facilitate a multi-paced/self-paced process for recovery from the pandemic.

Testing Clinics

This plan assumes a gradual decrease in testing requirements in direct correlation to disease spread. Should there be a need to increase testing capabilities in response to an increase in disease spread, or maintain a level of testing capabilities longer than anticipated, Virginia Tech will leverage existing external contracts and vendors to adapt.

The current contractual nature of the testing clinic at Lane Stadium and in the D.C. metro area provides for reasonable flexibility in adapting to testing requirements. The Schiffert Health Center will continue to manage overall testing capabilities and processed for Virginia Tech.

Remote Education/Work Tools

The primary plan is to move the majority of academic, research, and administrative operations back to in-person by the end of the fall 2021 semester. Virginia Tech will maintain the expanded resources used for remote education, research, administration, and operations through the planning period if not longer. This approach provides maximum flexibility to adapt operations as required should disease spread increase, the recovery period is extended, and/or regulatory and public health guidance requirements dictate.

Academic Space

Virginia Tech is planning to restore classrooms to a more normal occupancy including the return of furniture originally removed in response to the pandemic in summer 2020. The nominal physical distancing in classrooms with the additional furniture will be three feet. Should additional physical distancing once more become necessary, Virginia Tech will capture space in classrooms that will no longer be used (coordinated with remote delivery courses) to temporarily store excess furniture.

Isolation and Quarantine Space

Virginia Tech plans to continue the current approach to isolation and quarantine for on-campus students through the fall 2021 semester as noted in Section 7.4. For the planning period, the number of available rooms will be based on historical data and epidemiological forecasts in context with population estimates. The expansion of isolation and quarantine space can be implemented similar to

the approach leveraged in the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters based on need. If necessary, Virginia Tech can expand isolation and quarantine space by leveraging a separate facility, and finally, adding additional rooms in a third facility. Expansion will be coordinated in response to disease spread, vaccinations, and current isolation and quarantine guidance from the CDC and VDH. Virginia Tech's Housing and Residential Life within the Division of Student Affairs maintains the authority and responsibility for managing this space in concert with the Virginia Tech Incident Management Team and university leadership relative to managing COVID disease spread affecting the Virginia Tech community.

APPENDIX A. ATHLETICS SPORTS CAMPS

Based on current [Executive Order 72](#) and [Phase Three Guidelines](#), requirements for participants and organizers of overnight summer camps are outlined below:

SCREENING

All camps must develop and implement a plan to decrease the risk of infectious campers and staff entering the camp environment. This plan must include, but shall not be limited to, promotion of vaccination for those eligible, the requirement for a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to the beginning of camp.

Camp personnel must perform a daily symptom screening of all campers, including upon arrival. Daily screenings must include:

- Fever (temperature 100.4°F or higher)
- Sore throat
- New cough
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or stomachache
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

Each camp will develop protocols for streamlined travel and drop-offs with limited interactions between parents and camp personnel and other campers.

MASKING

Campers above the age of 5 and all staff must wear a mask or other appropriate face covering as required by Executive Order 72.

A group of campers and staff cohabitating in the same sleeping space are considered equivalent to a family as defined in Executive Order 72; mask requirements do not apply unless persons are in the presence of campers or staff outside of their camp cohort/family, or are in an indoor public place that is shared with other campers or staff.

All non-camp personnel that enter camp must wear a mask as required by Executive Order 72. Limit camp entrances to essential personnel only.

COHORTS

- All camps will be broken up into cohorts of 25 or less.
- Cohorts may not be mixed, including during meal times.
- Cohort size may not exceed 25 campers, not including staff.
- When any camper or staff is traveling throughout the camp or near other cohorts, strict physical distancing of six feet and mask-wearing must be observed from those not in their cohort.
- Staff may not have close contact with campers in multiple cohorts, with the exception of medical services or any event where close contact is necessary for the health or safety of a camper.
 - Restrictions against staff having close contact with multiple cohorts would not include when staff is leading outdoor or indoor activities, so long as appropriate physical distancing is practiced and masks are used by all those present.

SIGNAGE

Signage will be posted to provide public health reminders regarding physical distancing, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, and reporting symptoms if sick. Signs will use age-appropriate language to be understandable by campers.

[Phase Three Guidelines](#) provides the following suggestions for best practices for running overnight summer camps:

- Communicate camp COVID-19 procedures and camp departure protocols to parents/caregivers before the beginning of camp.
- Develop and maintain close communication with the local health department and community leaders. Camps will test campers for COVID-19 when needed using community resources (Carilion Velocity Care) and collaborate with the local health department and community care providers in the development of this plan.
 - Unless a child needs medical attention, it is recommended that the entire cohort quarantine together in the instance of a suspected or confirmed case.
- Prioritize outdoor activities and limit all-camp gatherings or activities that include participants from multiple cohorts to those that can take place outside.
- Have staff and campers dine outside or in well-ventilated areas. Create a plan for structured food distribution to avoid congregation areas.
 - Limit shared items, such as condiment bottles, sports equipment, and self-serve utensils.
- Limit off-campus activities to those that minimize camper and staff exposure to the community.
- Camps may consider reducing occupancy when necessary to maintain cohorts and the separation of staff working with separate cohorts. As campers in the same sleeping area can be considered of the same family for the duration of camp, decreasing occupancy to increase sleeping distance is not necessary.

Additional Considerations:

Staff, parents, and campers should be advised of high-risk pre-camp activities and behaviors that could result in exposure to and introduction of SARS-CoV-2 into camp.

Camps should communicate to parents and caregivers before camp about the response steps in the event of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in camp.

Camps should train all staff on all prevention, isolation and quarantine, symptom screening, and hand-hygiene plans, including their role in compliance with prevention guidelines. Staff should be educated on the role of hand/respiratory hygiene and proper wearing of masks, and how to teach and reinforce these measures for campers.

Cohorting is required for the first 14 days of any camp session and is strongly encouraged for the duration of camp. Cohorts are groups of campers and staff that are grouped together and treated as a household for the duration of cohorting. Cohorts may not have more than 25 campers. Cohorting protects your camp by limiting the spread of COVID-19 should any campers or staff contract the virus, and making contact tracing, [quarantine, and isolation](#) easier to execute.

If a camper shows symptoms

Camps should pursue testing of the symptomatic camper, and take steps to reduce the risk of the potentially positive camper from passing the virus to the rest of their cohort. Appropriate measures include isolating the ill camper (removing the camper from a common sleeping area, and ensuring that masks and physical distancing are observed whenever the potentially positive camper is in the presence of others).

Most cases of COVID-19 are mild and do not require medical care. In these situations, campers can be isolated in camp. If the camper is severely ill, then refer to a health care facility and call ahead to the facility before arrival.

If multiple campers in a cohort are showing symptoms and it is likely that the entire cohort has been exposed, it may be more appropriate to consider the entire cohort in quarantine until test results for symptomatic campers can be obtained.

If a camper tests positive

Camps must follow their Executive Order 72-required isolation and quarantine plan, and the positive camper must be placed in isolation.

Parents will be required to return and pick up their camper within eight hours of being notified of the need to quarantine or isolate.

When can a cohort or camper be released from quarantine?

The most protective and strongest recommended strategy is to keep any exposed camper in quarantine for 14 days after the last potential exposure to a positive case.

What is a close contact?

An exposure (or potential exposure) to COVID-19 is defined as having close contact with a person with COVID-19 while they were contagious. Close contact includes:

- being within six feet of a person who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, *or*
- having exposure to a person with confirmed or suspected COVID-19's respiratory secretions (e.g., coughed or sneezed on; shared a drinking glass or utensils; kissing); *or*
- being a household contact of a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19.

Camp COVID-19 Risk Assessment

Lowest Risk:

Outdoor activities, of any exertion level, where only one cohort is present (e.g. sports, tag, swimming, crafts) when any equipment is disinfected prior to cohort use, and campers have no close contact with instructors outside their cohort.

Camp field trips with little to no potential for community interaction (e.g. hiking, kayaking, cohorts kept separate), and campers are only driven by staff in their own cohort.

Campers eat in a well-ventilated area, or outdoors, only with their own cohort.

Medium-Low Risk

Indoor activities of low exertion where campers maintain physical distancing from instructors/staff not in their cohort, and masks are required (e.g., indoor pottery, arts and crafts, STEM activities).

Campers eat indoors in a shared space, but only with their own cohort.

Outdoor gatherings of cohorts with at least six feet between cohorts for low exertion activities (group movies).

Medium-High Risk

Indoor activities of high exertion where campers maintain physical distancing from instructors/staff not in their cohort, and masks are required (e.g., indoor sports, exercise/workouts).

Outdoor gatherings of multiple cohorts with at least 10 feet between cohorts during medium-high exertion activities (singing, chanting, performances).

Several cohorts share an indoor dining area at one time, but cohorts sit separately and are physically distanced from each other by at least 6 feet.

High Risk

Campers and staff exiting and returning to camps following high-risk activities (socials such as parties/bars, family events such as weddings, reunions).

Camp field trips where campers from more than one cohort share transportation (two cohorts, but seated separately in a large bus, campers driven by staff not in their cohort).

Camp field trips or overnight trips with high potential for community interaction (e.g., theme parks, water parks, indoor museums, shopping centers).

All campers eat indoors at the same time, but cohorts are physically distanced from each other by at least six feet.

Prohibited Activities

Any game or sport that involves probable close contact between campers in different cohorts (multi-cohort capture the flag, soccer, laser tag, etc.).

Activities that require close contact between instructors and campers not in their cohort (e.g., beginner archery, unless the instructor is of the same cohort as the camper).

Socials, competitions, or other events with campers from another camp.

Policies and Procedures

Virginia Tech Athletics will review local/state regulatory agency policies and orders related to events, gatherings, and travel.

Each camp sponsor will be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. All camp staff and participants will be given the camp sponsor's name and contact information.

Camp staff and participants are prohibited from participating if they are ill and/or have any of the associated signs of COVID-19.

Camp sponsors are responsible for developing resources to cross-train camp staff members and should create a roster of trained back-up staff.

All camp staff and participants will be subject to daily health screens and temperature checks. Any staff or participant that has a temperature greater than 100.4 and/or displays symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated or quarantined appropriately. Staff will be sent home immediately and a participant's parents will be notified and required to pick up their camper within an 8-hour window starting with the identification of signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Campers will be placed in groups of 25 or less participants with dedicated staff and remain in those groups throughout the day, every day the camp is in operation.

Facilities and Supplies

Each camp will be responsible for providing the necessary PPE for all staff and participants.

Each camp will develop a cleaning schedule for increased routine cleaning and disinfection in collaboration with the maintenance staff.

Each camp will develop a strategy to maximize ventilation and air flow when unable to participate outdoors.

Each camp will provide guides, such as tape on floors and signs on walls, to promote physical distancing.

Develop protocols to monitor and ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of materials, or limit use to one group of participants at a time, and clean and disinfect between use when appropriate.

Education and Training

Each camp will develop and present a detailed plan for staff, campers, and their families that will include, but not be limited to:

- Illness policies and procedures
- Exposure policies and procedures
- Quarantine and isolation policies and procedures
- Handwashing
- Masking policies and procedures
- Physical distancing strategies
- Hydration and food policies and procedures
- Cohort policies and procedures

Communication and Messaging

Each camp will post the appropriate signage in highly visible locations to promote COVID policies and procedures:

- Entrances/exits
- Dining areas
- Restrooms

Each camp will develop plans to include messages about behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19 when communicating with staff and families on:

- Websites
- Emails
- Social media

Each camp will communicate their COVID 19-point person in all camp communications. That person will be responsible for all questions and concerns related to COVID-19. Each camp will also report their COVID-19 point person to the following:

- Sport supervisor
- Cara Walters/Operations
- Mike Goforth/Sports Medicine
- Derek Gwinn/Compliance

Gatherings, Visitors, and Events

Each camp will review local/state/university regulatory agency policies related to group gatherings to determine if events can be held.

Limit group events, gatherings, or meetings where physical distancing of at least six feet between people cannot be maintained.

Limit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as much as possible, especially with individuals who are not from the local geographic area.

Avoid activities and events such as field trips and special performances where it may be difficult to maintain physical distancing.

When offering sport specific activities, follow special considerations to minimize the transmission of COVID 19 to participants, families, and staff. Please refer to CDC information for "[Considerations for Youth Sports Administrators.](#)"

Prioritize outdoor activities where physical distancing can be maintained as much as possible.

If food is offered at any event, make plans to provide pre-packaged boxes or bags for each attendee and use disposable food service items. Provide hand sanitizer or wipes if handwashing is not available. Consider doing all meals grab-and-go.