

RETURN TO SAFE AND NORMAL OPERATIONS

Team White



Team Members

- Team Lead: **Dr. Anna Bosch**, Associate Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
- **Todd Adkins**, Director for Risk Management; EOC Liaison
- **Dr. Camille Burnett**, Associate Professor, College of Nursing; Strategic Advisor for Community Engagement and Academic Partnerships with the Office of the Provost
- **Melody Flowers**, Executive Director for Strategic Analysis and Policy
- **Michael Hamilton**, 2019-2020 SGA President
- **Jenna Lowe**, Assistant Director, Fraternity & Sorority Life Office
- **Jill Smith**, Associate Vice President for Alumni Engagement; Executive Director, University of Kentucky Alumni Association.
- **Dr. Baron Wolf**, Assistant Vice President for Research Strategy and Data Analytics; Chief of Staff, Office of the Vice President for Research

University Guiding Principles

- The health of the Wildcat community including faculty, staff, students, patients, and visitors
- Continue ongoing operations
- Ensure ongoing, timely, factual information and communication to the campus community and impacted audiences
- Support the entire community

Team White Guiding Principles

- Public health considerations
- Prioritize the mission of the institution; teaching, research, service, health care
- Communication plans must be timely, consistent, and transparent
- Community support
- Maintain best practices in teaching and learning, both in the classroom and online
- Evaluation and assessment to continuously guide next steps and decision making

Contingency Plan #1: Normal Start

Description

- First day of classes is 8/24
- 16 week term
- existing course schedules and loads
- Residential, in person experience

Adaptations

- Shortened semester – normal start date, in person; eliminate Fall Break, courses end at Thanksgiving
- 12+4 semester – normal start date, in person; move off campus at week 12 to do 4 weeks online (of full course load or block scheduling)
- 8+8 semester – normal start date, in person; block scheduling

Contingency Plan #1: Normal Start

Benefits

- Students really want to be on campus
- Course schedules can be maintained, including clinical rotations, research, etc.
- Critical support for FYE, especially first Generation and URM students
- Provides best opportunity for strong yield, retention, and graduation rates
- Provides an opportunity for UK to stand out as a residential, research-active institution

Challenges

- Public health impact
- Enforcing social distancing guidelines is mammoth effort
- Having to move online halfway through a second time if there is a second wave
- Decrease in enrollment numbers due to fear/anxiety around coming back too soon?
- Adjustments due to social distancing may result in students feeling 'cheated' of true experience
- Need to develop clear policies regarding faculty and staff who have underlying health conditions

Contingency Plan #2: Delayed Start

Description

- First day of classes is adjusted, resulting in either a 14-week or 12-week term
- Existing course schedules and loads
- Residential, in person experience

Adaptations

- 4+12 semester – students complete 4-week course online before moving in and completing 12-week semester

Contingency Plan #2: Delayed Start

Benefits

- More time for COVID-19 threat to diminish
- Gets students on campus
- Student can keep already existing course schedules
- Gives faculty more time to get coursework content prepared for shortened semester and for possible virtual instruction (second wave)

Challenges

- Desire of students to experience the full residential campus experience
- Prolonged period of uncertainty before students arrive on campus
- Possible need for adjustment of tuition and fees
- Faculty and staff must adjust course content to incorporate more hybrid/online course material
- Lack of flexibility and increased overall disruption if students arrive for a delayed start and THEN need to be sent off-campus due to a late second wave
- Increased workload on students leading to increased stress and mental health impact
- Students will need to return to campus after Thanksgiving, thus creating conditions for possible second-wave outbreak on campus

Contingency Plan #3: Hybrid Semester

Description

- First day of classes is 8/24
- Two 8-week terms; first in person/residential and second online
- Significant adjustment to course schedules loads

Adaptations

- 4+8+4
- 12+4
- 10+6
- First Years Only on Campus?
- Graduate and professional students only on campus?

Contingency Plan #3: Hybrid Semester

Benefits

The benefits of the hybrid semester devolve from the separation of the Fall 2020 semester into two distinct halves (8+8).

- Opportunity to bring students onto campus right away
- Students are eager for the residential experience
- Students will focus on only 2 courses per 8-week session
 - therefore potential for less stressful semester in terms of academic workload
- Ease of transition/ Potential for less disruption if campus is closed for the second 8-weeks

Challenges

- Logistics of moving students on-campus/off-campus for only 8 weeks
- Will require a wholesale revision of the current fall class schedule
- Distressing for returning students who enrolled during Priority Registration and now must re-enroll a second time
- Disruptive to faculty, staff, and advisors who need to reconfigure the entire fall schedule of classes
- Extremely short timeframe for revising fall course schedule (June 22: SBU)
- Requires faculty and instructors to prepare for online teaching for at least one of the two half-terms; perhaps both

Contingency Plan #4: Fully Online

Description

- First day of classes is 8/24
- Online, virtual experience - no in person/residential component
- maintain current course schedules and loads (does not address in person coursework such as labs or clinicals)

Adaptations

- 8+8
- 12+4
- Courses online, lab/clinical/research work in person

Contingency Plan #4: Fully Online

Benefits

- Minimizes potential negative public health impact (primarily physical impact)
- Provides clearest option for consistency of experience, particularly if second wave occurs

Challenges

- Anticipate it will affect enrollment, retention, graduation (lower)
- Developing full online curriculum of courses is a mammoth effort
- Cocurricular experiences are less than ideal
- Mental health toll of isolation and students
- Access to IT resources/needs may not be equitable

Things to Consider

- Consider admitting students to campus but ALSO providing all-online education?
- All colleges should develop some online courses even if the University decides to open the campus for a "Regular Start" fall semester.
- How will health and safety policies be enforced – and the UK community held accountable?
- Privacy issues surrounding health and safety protocols will need to be considered.
- A full inventory of facility needs is urgently needed.
- The campus will not be fully functional again until schools, daycares, and elder care facilities are back in regular operation.
- It is not too early to begin planning for 2021.

QUESTIONS?
