



Fall 2020 Opening Plan Executive Summary

July 31, 2020

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS, ENFORCEMENT & EDUCATION

- Students intending to return to campus must sign an Informed Consent Agreement acknowledging expectations that individuals will engage in social and hygiene practices.
- To limit the potential risk of exposure to the coronavirus, PSU has instituted a resident-only policy for on-campus residence halls. Temporary [guidelines for campus visitors and guests](#) have been posted. Residents will be unable to visit residence halls other than their own or have visitors from outside the residence hall. Policies are being finalized to reflect new expectations related to social distancing, hygiene, and sanitation.
- PSU is requiring the use of face coverings in all academic and public indoor campus spaces when social distancing is not possible.
- There will be no pre-season for any fall sports with the cancellation of the LEC fall season. PSU Athletics is working on a proposal to continue practices and opportunities for student athletes to stay engaged and will comply with the testing and screening plans for Athletics.
- Attendance taking requirements have been communicated to faculty. Students will be required to use assigned seating.
- Students must adhere to the Informed Consent Agreement in order to attend PSU in Fall 2020. Those who choose not to follow health, safety, and other rules will be subject to the student conduct process, which may result in interim suspension and/or removal from the campus environment pending a hearing. A three-tiered system of consequences is outlined in the "[2020-21 Rider to Conduct Policy: Compliance with University Health Protocol.](#)"
- Off-Campus law enforcement, including Plymouth and Holderness Police Departments, now have access to make submission only to the on-campus student behavior/conduct reporting system. This system, known as Maxient, reports behaviors and concerns to appropriate campus officials. It was generally agreed upon that police would manage large parties/crowds (on and off campus) to encourage physical safety and reduce property damage, yet not take an active role with enforcement of public health measures. Police do have a role in public health information dissemination at these events and will make efforts to report behavior to campus officials through the Maxient reporting system.
- Town of Plymouth is currently set to vote on a face covering ordinance. If enacted, it will be in effect before the fall semester begins. The town of Plymouth already has a Place of Assembly Ordinance, which can be used to mitigate large crowds.
- PSU and other USNH institutions are launching a comprehensive Public Education Campaign with best practices in public health, communications, and grassroots organizing to communicate expectations.

SPACING, CLEANING AND PROTECTION

- Classroom occupancy has been reduced in all classrooms to 50% capacity. PSU Physical Plant Department has determined classroom capacities as they relate to social distancing recommendations. Determinations were made by taking the current occupancies of the spaces based on National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) occupancy code regulatory requirements,

then by modeling for both six-foot social distancing recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and for three-foot social distancing with masks recommendations by the World Health Organization (WHO).

- Occupancy for Residence Halls, Dining, Public Spaces, and Athletics will be limited. Clearly marked queues to reflect six-foot distancing.
- Outdoor dining spaces are being developed.
- PSU has expanded zoom capability for 90 classrooms with installing permanent zoom capabilities or through use of portable zoom systems (“Owl Kits”).
- The academic calendar has been adjusted so Fall semester classes will begin on Monday, August 24, (both online and in-person) and run through Thursday, November 19, 2020. Many classes will be available in both in-person and online formats to accommodate students who may need to attend remotely. Finals will run from Friday, November 20–Tuesday, November 24. Classes will be held on Labor Day (Monday, September 7) and Indigenous Peoples Day (Monday, October 12). Fall 2020 concludes on Tuesday, November 24. All students return home until Spring 2021 begins on Monday, January 18, 2021.
- Blended Delivery is anticipated and 170+ faculty have received enhanced online training.
- PSU Physical Plant has met with departments, installed protective barriers/plexiglass and visual markings where appropriate, and conducted additional training/education awareness sessions.
- The rate of outside/fresh air will be increased into PSU buildings while maintaining the space at a comfortable temperature for occupants.
- Public buildings will be restricted to PSU community.

TESTING AND SCREENING

- Students, faculty, and staff will be tested for COVID-19 infection prior to arriving on campus and then again during the semester. Most PSU students who reside outside the greater Plymouth area will have pre-arrival testing done via Quest’s proprietary mail test protocol.
- Testing method will be a mid-terminate nasal swab. All students will be required to have a negative test result on file with the Health Services Center 3-7 days before arriving on Campus (move-in days for residential students, beginning of class for off-campus students). All faculty and staff will be required to have a negative test on file with Human Resources 3-7 days prior to returning to Campus.
- PSU’s on-campus testing began on July 28 and is operating on multiple dates.
- The second round of testing will take place the week of 8/24 with the third and final round the week of 9/15. Special student populations will be tested either weekly or bi-weekly depending on the interaction with other entities and increased risk categories (athletes, music students, student teachers, nursing, clinical, etc.).
- After the last round of testing, a random selection 10% of faculty, staff, and students will be selected for testing each week.
- The Health Services Center will track testing results through their electronic medical records programs for students. Human Resources will receive information on faculty and staff. NHDHHS will simultaneously be notified of any positive test results.
- PSU has established a Rapid Response Team that is made up of eight members. This team will take the first 24 hours of possible contacts and will hand off the NHDHHS for further investigation.
- Currently, employees are required to self-certify their health each day.

CONTACT TRACING

- PSU, KSC, and GSC are developing a contact tracing system, called a rapid response team, as noted above. If contact tracing is not completed by identified teams at each institution, it would be through NHDHHS. Goals are to help augment or support state efforts and identify and isolate within 24 hours of a positive test.

ISOLATION AND INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

- Quarantine and/or isolation of 25 to 30 beds (on- and off-campus) will trigger further action.
- In addition to set-aside quarantine space, students may be isolated by room, floor and/or residence hall based on the percentage or presumed number of COVID-19 cases. Our goal is to reach out to those testing positive within 24 hours and begin case management investigation.