Student Affairs Fall 2020

Charge:
Establish policies, procedures and strategies for safely repopulating as it pertains to Student Affairs activities. Specifically addressing non-classroom student activities, recreation, housing and student accountability.

Need to consider these various target populations when designing communication strategies:
- Undergraduate students
- On-campus housing - RHA
- Fraternity and Sorority Life community (students, families and alumni)
- International students
- Graduate students and Professional students
- Student employees within Students Affairs

Subcommittee: Positive COVID-19 or outbreak response

Charge:
The subcommittee for positive COVID-19 or outbreak response is charged with the development of a thorough action plan for the isolation or quarantine of students exposed or diagnosed with COVID-19.

Recommendations: Communication Protocol
Student/patient will be informed of positive test results by the provider ordering the test/making the diagnosis. The provider will instruct the patient on next steps including that a public health staff/designee (tracer) will be contacting them to initiate contact tracing.

In contact tracing, tracer will work with a student/patient to help them recall everyone with whom they have had close contact during the timeframe while they may have been infectious. The tracer will then warn these exposed individuals (contacts) of their potential exposure as rapidly and sensitively as possible. To protect patient privacy, contacts are only informed that they may have been exposed to a patient with the infection. They are not told the identity of the patient who may have exposed them. Contacts are provided with education, information, and support to understand their risk, what they should do to separate themselves from others who are not exposed, monitor themselves for illness, and the possibility that they could spread the infection to others even if they themselves do not feel ill. Contacts are encouraged to stay home and maintain social distance from others (at least 6 feet) until 14 days after their last exposure, in case they also become ill. They should monitor themselves by checking their temperature twice daily and watching for cough or shortness of breath. To the extent possible, public health staff should check in with contacts to make sure they are self-monitoring and have not developed symptoms. Contacts who develop symptoms should promptly isolate themselves and notify public health staff. They should be promptly evaluated for infection and for the need for medical care.

Residential Life is securing temporary housing options for students who need to isolate or quarantine.
Housing Support
1. Upon approval, communications will be initiated to affected residents of the need to relocate, assistance being offered, and housing options available.
2. A phone listing will be provided with numbers of agencies that can be reached for assistance or services during the period of isolation.
3. Each student will be issued a temporary card or key for access to the building/apartment/unit. All other bedrooms will be locked.
4. Trash pickup will be conducted on an as needed basis between occupancies.
5. Rooms will be cleaned and disinfected between occupancy by either MU campus facilities staff or contracted services per CDC/EHS standards.
6. During isolation/quarantine, Care Team will conduct periodic checks on the student.

Dining
Campus Dining Services: Campus Dining will deliver meals to students at the designated drop-off location.

Off-Campus Cleaning
Students need to take standards for hygiene and cleanliness very seriously and take steps to ensure the safety of roommates/apartment mates. On a daily basis, students need meet the latest guidance on hygiene and cleaning. Students should adhere to CDC cleaning guidelines, and include everything from hand washing hygiene and cleaning product specifications. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/clean-disinfect/index.html

On-Campus Cleaning
Vacated room of student transitioning to isolation/quarantine
• Immediate communication to room/suite/apartment mates
• Campus Facilities will enter the space with appropriate PPE. They will utilize a natural fogging chemical designed for close quarters use. They will also wipe down high touch surfaces.
• Staff wear face covering in common areas and student rooms

Isolation/quarantine rooms
• Providing resources for students to self-clean or wipe down bathrooms and common areas, if desired
• Campus Facilities will enter the space with appropriate PPE. They will utilize a natural fogging chemical designed for close quarters use. They will also wipe down all surfaces.
• Staff wear face covering in common areas and student rooms

Release from Isolation/Quarantine
A student will be released from isolation/quarantine following receipt of ‘release statement’ from Public Health. The student will be directed to provide Dean of Students Care Team a copy of their release statement.
Subcommittee: Education and Culture Change

Charge:
Provide recommendations to the Scenario Planning committee regarding educational and behavioral or culture change strategies to reduce the risks associated with COVID-19 as we repopulate campus.

Recommendations:

- Provide clear communication to students regarding safety precautions and expectations
- Coordinate and align to create consistent communications
- Have messaging that have a positive, encouraging tone, versus a punitive tone
- Involve students in developing our messages to ensure the messages resonate with students
- Tailor messages to different key groups of students

Actions Taken:
The Education and Culture Change Subcommittee is focused on developing educational materials and communication strategies for behavior and culture change for our students as they return to campus. The committee is comprised of a diverse mix of students, faculty and staff, many of whom have expertise in public health, marketing and strategic communications, student activities, health education, and mental health.

Subcommittee: Social Distancing

Charge:
Provide recommendations related to “student out of class activities”.

Recommendations:
Many of these recommendations are related to student activities outside of the classroom. Consistency of practices and expectations across campus (and off-campus) for group activities and one-on-one interactions are important to help our students navigate the campus environment. We recommend the use of social norming and student responsibility over a more punitive approach, yet we offer an accountability process should it be required. We also recommend important events and traditions continue if they can be achieved in a safe manner, recognizing those traditions will look different this year (e.g. Tiger Walk, Fall Welcome, Midnight BBQ).

- Maintain 6’ social distancing no matter the venue.
- Reduce group sizes, clean between groups (adhere to Boone County Health, CDC and Public Health recommendations).
- All indoor events must have an established maximum capacity. Adhere to guidelines at each venue.
- Consider spreading events over several days if applicable or decentralizing events by spreading out into multiple spaces
- Combine an event with a live-stream or other remote participation option Utilize virtual meetings whenever possible (CARE coordinators, counseling, etc.)
- Increased staffing to provide for more monitoring of campus events
- Develop training for student staff and student organizations to understand expectations for meetings, events, and activities.
- Avoid touching scanners/swipe machines and use proper PPE as well as Plexiglass screens where appropriate
• Issue masks and hand sanitizer for events as appropriate.
• Post appropriate signage to communicate guidelines and expectations at events. Use social media to inform of attendance policies prior to the event to manage student expectations.
• All food will be pre-packaged and served with limited contact. All soda/water bottles will be served without contact.
• Giveaways will be distributed with as little contact as possible.
• All attendees (including guests) will be monitored by staff at the entrance and either swiped in using their MU student ID or provide their name and email address.
• If required, temperatures will be taken at the entrance of the event for the health and safety of attendees. If temperature is 37.8°C (100.40F) or greater it is considered abnormal.

Fall 2020 Examples

• Fraternity & Sorority Life will employ a hybrid model with virtual and in person recruitment for 2,000 Greeks.
• Welcome Week groups will be even smaller and remain within their community. This will include a three-day alternating schedule and dozens of smaller events throughout the week for students to participate.
• Share CDC, ACHA, MU community best practices with Greek House Corporations living in chapter houses
• Share best practices through Off-Campus Student Services with Columbia apartment and property owners
• Support and encourage students and staff to remain at home if they are unwell or have been in close contact with someone who is sick

Facility:

• Require handwashing or sanitizing upon entering buildings
• Increased staff for building monitoring, cleaning, ingress egress
• Adhere to room capacity guidelines
• Limit access to buildings by number; determine if guests are invited
• Limit and monitor entrances; maintain only one entrance and designate separate exists
• Identify allowable occupancy in classrooms/meeting rooms to maintain physical distancing
• Increase space between work areas; in shared workspaces with less than 6 feet between workstations, stagger schedules; convert meeting rooms/classrooms to alternative office space
• Restrict access to and use of common spaces such as kitchens, lounges and garden rooms
• Remove microwaves, coffee pots, and other communal equipment
• Limit use of refrigerators, sinks, and water fountains
• Remove furniture in common spaces to meet social distancing guidelines.
• Determine rules for or not engage in face-to-face or in-person meetings
• Limit meeting size and use Zoom if possible
• Limit office occupancy
• Reduce elevator use and occupancy
• Use floor markings and signage to denote 6-feet distance in key areas and in line prone areas
• Deter touching door handles by keeping doors open or install foot-operated door pedals
• Install physical barriers where necessary, such as Plexiglas barriers at highly visited areas