



VSU
VIRGINIA STATE
VSU
Spring
FORWARD



Spring
2021

THE VSU REOPENING PLAN

Virginia State University's Campus Reopening Plan is a comprehensive approach to help ensure the health and safety of our students, staff, and faculty.

Table of Contents

OVERVIEW	3
A CAMPUS GUIDE TO REOPENING	4
Establishment of a Covid-19 Coordinator/Campus Team	5
Repopulating the Campus	6
Education, Training, and Preventive Care	6
Protecting Vulnerable Populations	7
Specific Guidelines for International Students	8
Specific Safety Guidelines for Athletics	8
Monitoring Health Conditions to Detect Infection	8
Entry Level Testing	8
Symptomatic and Asymptomatic Testing.....	9
Surveillance Testing of Asymptomatic Campus Population.....	9
Touchless Temperature Kiosks/Early Alert.....	9
Exit Testing.....	10
Containment to Prevent Spread of the Disease When Detected	10
Isolation and Quarantine	10
Contact Tracing	11
Transitioning to Remote Instruction and Services	11
Shutdown.....	12
ADDITIONAL FOCAL POINTS	12
Health and Safety	12
Student Health Center	13
University Counseling Center	13
Safety Protocols	13
Academic and Student Support	17
Instruction.....	17
Student Support Services.....	19
Spring 2021 Academic Calendar Adjustments.....	20
Residential Campus Life.....	20
Residence Life and Housing.....	20

Student Activities21
Dining Services21
VSU Campus Bookstore (Follett)23
APPENDICES..... 24
Appendix A: Crosswalk/Alignment - Focus Areas & SCHEV Guidelines25
Appendix B – VSU Emergency Preparedness and Response Team27
Appendix C – VSU Department of Athletics COVID-19 Management Plan29
Appendix D – VSU Department of Athletics COVID-19 Resocialization Plan38



“The Virginia State University Fall 2020 Reopening Plan has been reviewed by the State Council of Higher Education and has been found to be compliant in containing the required components of the ‘Higher Education Reopening Guidance,’ which was developed in consultation with the Virginia Department of Health.”

OVERVIEW

The goal of Virginia State University remains to provide transformative educational experiences for our students and to prepare them to change the world. While the COVID-19 pandemic may have sidetracked our normal operations, it did not alter our mission or our goals. As we are now focusing on moving forward, we will continue providing our students with access to a high quality and affordable educational experience in the upcoming spring 2021 semester. We are here for our current students who are working toward their degree; and we are here to welcome our new Trojans, the class of 2024. As we begin our multi-phased approach to reopening for the spring semester, we will do so in accordance with State recommendations set forth by Governor Ralph Northam ([Forward Virginia Blueprint](#)). The [Virginia Department of Health](#) (VDH) will continue to be a lead partner to and help provide best practice guidance on screening and testing and coordinating contact tracing. In addition to the Governor’s mandate, we will continue to adhere to the guidance provided by the [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC).

Virginia State University’s Campus Reopening Plan is a comprehensive approach to help ensure the health and safety of our students, staff, and faculty and as we transition from remote instruction to limited in-person instruction. It is consistent with Governor Northam’s updated [Executive Order 65](#) (dated June 11, 2020) which approved “some return to in-person instruction and other activities” for Virginia Institutions of Higher Education and supports Virginia State University’s desire to engage in high quality transformative face to face learning experiences with its students. VSU’s Campus Reopening Plan adheres to the CDC guidelines for Higher Education Institutions, the VDH guidance on testing, and it is consistent with the Forward Virginia Blueprint. Based on these respective resources, we acknowledge that certain public health conditions (e.g. positive trends in public health data, surge health care capacity) must be met prior to reopening and that a climate of adherence to sound public health principles among students, faculty, staff, and other constituencies must be maintained to ensure that our COVID-

19 campus preparedness plan remains consistent with the guidance set forth by the commonwealth of Virginia.

The Virginia State University Campus Reopening Plan was approved (August 2020) by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and has been updated for the spring 2021 semester. It continues to address the requirements detailed in the state guidance document, “[Higher Education Reopening Guidance](#)” and is organized following the Governor’s four focus areas listed below:

1. Repopulation of the Campus
2. Monitoring Health Conditions to Detect Infection
3. Containment to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 when detected
4. Shut Down Considerations if necessitated by severe conditions and/or public health guidance

Plus three additional areas of focus identified as significant to operationalizing the University’s responsiveness and compliance to COVID-19 guidelines

5. Health and Safety
6. Academic and Student Support
7. Residential Campus Life

Our strategic approach to reopening includes a commitment to protecting the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff while providing a transformative educational experience. VSU’s Campus Reopening Plan adheres to the [CDC guidelines](#) for Higher Education Institutions, the [VDH guidance](#) on testing, and it is consistent with the [Forward Virginia Blueprint](#). Based on these respective resources, we acknowledge that certain public health conditions (e.g. positive trends in public health data, surge health care capacity) must be met prior to reopening and that a climate of adherence to sound public health principles among students, faculty, staff, and other constituencies must be maintained to ensure that our COVID-19 campus preparedness plan remains consistent with the guidance set forth by the commonwealth of Virginia.

Please see [Appendix A](#) for a more detailed crosswalk explaining the alignment between VSU’s Reopening Plan and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia requirements.

A CAMPUS GUIDE TO REOPENING

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our world in many ways. As VSU moves forward, we each have a collective responsibility to proceed with a spirit of thoughtfulness and flexibility. Our strategic approach to reopening includes a commitment to protecting the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff while providing a transformative educational experience.

Spring 2021 CLASSES will begin on Monday, February 1, 2021, but it will look and feel differently as we seek to prioritize the quality of the student experience while implementing the recommended health and safety procedures.

The VSU faculty, staff, and students have demonstrated their resiliency and adaptability in the COVID-19 pandemic. As we prepare to return to campus in these unprecedented times, VSU remains strong and mission focused. We will overcome the challenges of this moment and together VSU will emerge as a stronger and more connected university.

Establishment of a Covid-19 Coordinator/Campus Team

Last spring, Dr. Donald E. Palm, Provost and Sr. V.P. for Academic and Student Affairs established a taskforce which including representation from the local Virginia Department of Health and charged various planning groups to explore a number of scenarios for reopening the institution. The committee was organized into multiple subgroups and was asked to provide recommendations for how VSU should move forward in fall 2020 and re-engaged for spring 2021. The taskforce collected feedback from VSU constituents, analyzed campus data, and reviewed guidelines. This comprehensive plan builds upon the specific recommendations provided by the taskforce, the planning groups, lessons learned from other institutions and the feedback from our students, faculty and staff.

Out of an abundance of caution and after careful consideration and the university made the decision to remain remote for the fall 2020 semester. However, the University's Emergency Preparedness and Response Team (which consists of individuals across campus) continued to review all aspects of campus operations and learned from other Virginia Universities who re-opened about unforeseen challenges. Thus, the committee has continued to review health and safety protocols, classroom spacing, and cleaning procedures to ensure a safe and seamless repopulation and depopulation of the campus for the spring 2021 semester. We realize that circumstances surrounding COVID-19 may necessitate an adjustment to our plan just as we did in the fall; and we are prepared to alter it as necessary. An overview of the Emergency Preparedness and Response team is provided in [Appendix B](#) in addition to contact information for the local Virginia Department of Health.

Classes for the spring 2021 semester will begin on Monday, February 1, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 health and safety recommendations, and in an effort to remain flexible and maintain low-density classrooms, VSU will offer multiple modalities of course delivery: Online/Remote Instruction, Hybrid (combination of face-to-face and remote learning) Instruction, and Face-to-Face Instruction. In addition, Spring 2021 on-campus housing capacity will be reduced to adhere with Virginia Department of Health guidelines and the Association for College and University Housing Officers-International, (ACUHO-I).

Prior to opening, faculty, staff, and students will be required to complete and pass a COVID-19 training module and will be encouraged to use the VDH COVID-19 self-check tool for

prescreening as a part of their daily monitoring protocol. We will use a scheduled staggered check-in process beginning January 15, 2021 to begin our student repopulation process.

During check-in, all students will be required to receive COVID-19 testing prior to move in. In addition, faculty and staff are strongly encouraged to test for COVID-19 on a regular basis and will have access to COVID-19 testing on campus or they can use their personal health care provider. While on campus, faculty, staff and students will follow the Mandatory Social Distancing and Face-Mask policies/rules in accordance with Governor Northam's Executive Order 63. The university will use surveillance testing and implement hands-free temperature screening stations in high traffic areas to monitor health conditions and to assist with detection and containment. The latter will also support containment through contact tracing in collaboration with the Virginia recommended [COVIDWISE APP](#). Decisions regarding shutdowns will be made in consultation with local and state public officials.

Repopulating the Campus

Education, Training, and Preventive Care

Virginia State University continues to prioritize the health and safety of its campus community as we welcome back residential students beginning January 15, 2021. Thus to promote health and safety, all faculty, staff and students will be required to use the VDH COVID-19 self-monitoring tool for 14 days prior to arrival to campus. This will serve as a preventive care/prescreening tool and should be exercised throughout the semester as a part of our daily monitoring protocol. The Student Health Center will distribute this information which can be administered via website or app for easy administration.

In addition, all VSU faculty, staff, and students will be required to complete and pass an educational COVID-19 training module prior to the start of the semester. The self-paced electronic training's main objectives are:

- Develop an understanding of how COVID-19 is transmitted
- Develop an understanding of the symptoms of COVID-19
- Develop an understanding of measures an individual can take to reduce the spread of COVID-19
- Develop an understanding of university policies that will protect employees and students from the exposure to COVID-19
- Develop an understanding of strategies for individuals to support themselves while on campus
- Develop an understanding of health and safety skills, including proper technique for handwashing, using hand sanitizer, putting on and taking off mask/facial covering,

taking a temperature with an oral thermometer and removing non-latex disposable gloves

As new information emerges, preventive care and COVID-19 education programs will be conducted in the residence halls and throughout campus throughout the semester. Residence Life (Resident Assistants, Graduate Assistants and other Student Government Leaders) will be required to complete the Johns Hopkins Contact Tracer Course and the American Red Cross Psychological First Aid: Supporting Yourself and Others During COVID-19. Residence Life will continue to seek best practice from the American College Health Association (ACHA) and the Association of College and University Housing Officers International (ACUHO-I). There will be no visitation and restricted access in the residence halls and the campus community will continue to collaborate as we ensure that physical distancing and other safety protocols are followed and to assist in our ability to monitor health conditions to detect infection.

Protecting Vulnerable Populations

VSU is committed to providing a safe, equitable and inclusive environment for faculty, staff and students. Discrimination or discriminatory harassment is not only unlawful, it is harmful to the well-being of our university community. Reports of discrimination, bullying, harassment and/or stereotyping of persons of color or those impacted by COVID-19 or otherwise, will not be tolerated.

Students who are experiencing emotional distress or are in need of counseling or support can schedule an appointment with the University Counseling Center by calling (804) 524-5939. Counseling services will be provided using a tele-health platform.

- Remote or teleworking options may be provided for vulnerable employees in high-risk categories (e.g. 65 years or older, underlying health conditions), those caring for loved ones, and those who choose to self-report a disability. In those cases, employees would consult the Office of Human Resources (OHR) to facilitate the request by completing an Accommodation Request form.
- Requests for an accommodation, along with any necessary supporting documentation, will be reviewed by the appropriate OHR staff.
- The OHR staff will discuss the request with the individual faculty or staff member and will meet with appropriate individuals, such as the individual's dean, department chair, supervisor, or department head, in order to assess the options for reasonable accommodations.
- OHR shall notify the faculty or staff member in writing of the approved accommodations within 15 days of receipt of a request, unless additional documentation is required or extenuating circumstances necessitate a longer review period.

Specific Guidelines for International Students

There is widespread ongoing transmission of COVID-19 worldwide. Individuals may be screened when arriving in the United States of America. Currently, travel restrictions and entry screening apply only to travelers arriving from some countries or regions with ongoing spread of COVID-19. However, all residential students will be tested for COVID-19 as part of the move-in process. In addition, all students registered for on-campus classes will be scheduled for COVID-19 testing.

Per the CDC, individuals returning from international travel should monitor their health. The recommendation is that individuals take their temperature with a thermometer two times a day in order to monitor for fever. They should continue to keep a log of their symptoms. Individuals are encouraged to visit the [CDC website](#) to find the current travel health notice level for their international travel itinerary. [Note: U.S. policies are subject to change as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves.]

Specific Safety Guidelines for Athletics

Resocialization Plan Recommendations

In conjunction with NCAA and Commonwealth of Virginia resocialization guidelines, the Virginia State University Department of Athletics developed recommendations regarding the phases of resocialization. These implementation strategies are to enhance a safe return to athletic activity and connect Athletics with the broader institution. As guidelines and information continues to change, this document will be reviewed with revisions.

Monitoring Health Conditions to Detect Infection

Entry Level Testing

Beginning January 15, 2021, students will repopulate the campus using the staggered check-in schedule. This process will allow testing for all students using both Abbott's Rapid Antigen (BinaxNOW- Point of Care Test) and the Thermo-Fischer or LabCorp RT-PCR test. The Rapid Antigen test will serve as an initial screening to inform our quarantine efforts for re-entry to campus as we await the more definitive RT-PCR results. Entry testing will be by appointment only and located in Daniels Gymnasium. If a student is determined positive for COVID-19 by the Rapid Antigen during entry testing they will be notified on site and provided a choice of returning home or isolating on campus in Whiting Hall which has been designated as isolation and quarantine space. Negative results for the Rapid Antigen test will also be communicated on site. Negative RT-PCR test results will be emailed to students within 72 hours while positive RT-PCR results will be communicated to the students via phone within 72 hours by Student Health Officials. Regardless of which test, positive students will be relocated to isolation accommodations in Whiting Hall or give the option to return home. All reported incidences of

COVID-19 will be communicated to the Virginia Department of Health, activate our contact tracing protocol and be populated on the [VSU COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Symptomatic and Asymptomatic Testing

Students, Faculty and Staff will receive COVID-19 testing free of charge through our VSU Student Health Center via the COVID-19 testing facility located in Whiting Hall. In addition, faculty and staff are also strongly encouraged to see their primary health care provider to effectively monitor their personal health and are expected to self-report any positive results to VSU's Human Resource department. If a student is determined positive for COVID-19 by the Rapid Antigen test they will be notified on site and relocated to Whiting Hall. Negative results for the Rapid Antigen test will also be communicated on site, while negative RT-PCR test results will be emailed to students within 72 hours. Positive RT-PCR results will be communicated to the students via phone within 72 hours by Student Health Officials and students will be relocated to isolation accommodations in Whiting Hall. All reported incidences of COVID-19 will be communicated to the Virginia Department of Health, activate our contact tracing protocol and be populated on the [VSU COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Surveillance Testing of Asymptomatic Campus Population

In collaboration with the Office of the Registrar and Human Resources, Student Health will randomly test the on-campus (residential and commuter students, faculty, and staff) population monthly. Negative RT-PCR test results will be emailed to the individuals of the sample population within 72 hours while positive RT-PCR results will be communicated via phone within 72 hours by Student Health Officials. If a student is determined positive for COVID-19 they will be relocated to Whiting Hall for isolation. If a faculty or staff member test positive they will follow the established COVID-19 policy for reporting and isolation. All reported incidences of COVID-19 will be communicated to the Virginia Department of Health, activate our contact tracing protocol and be populated on the [VSU COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Touchless Temperature Kiosks/Early Alert

Wello automatic temperature kiosks will be located in every occupied residence hall and in academic, student life, and administrative facilities. The temperature kiosks will be used as an integral part of our monitoring process to identify individuals and facilities which may warrant additional preventive care measures. The temperature kiosks will alert and help individuals make informed decisions pertaining to their health status. Individuals with elevated temperatures will be directed to Student Health or advised to see their personal health care

provider for further evaluation. The aggregate information will be used to identify high risk locations, to inform preventive measures and support contact tracing.

Exit Testing

Exit testing will be used to monitor the health and safety of our campus community as students return home. The staggered check-out process will afford testing for all students and will guide our efforts to safely de-populate the campus. If a student is determined positive for COVID-19 they will be notified and provided a choice of returning home or isolating on Campus in Whiting Hall. All reported incidences of COVID-19 will be communicated to the Virginia Department of Health, activate our contact tracing protocol and be populated on the [VSU COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Containment to Prevent Spread of the Disease When Detected

Isolation and Quarantine

The Student Health Center continues to seek guidance from VDH regarding best practices and will continue to consult with the local VDH epidemiologist to assist with containment and contact tracing for COVID-19. Please see below an outline of our processes:

- Isolation/Quarantine in Whiting Hall (55 spaces) (see Appendix for housing assignments)
- Non-residential students are asked to quarantine in their own homes, while students living on campus will be encouraged to return to their permanent homes, if possible or stay in Whiting Hall. Students who opt to Isolate or Quarantine will need to sign a waiver stating they understand the risks of returning home.
- If a higher level of care is needed for symptomatic students, it will be provided through an established partnership with Bon Secours Mercy Health Southside Regional Medical Center.
- The Student Health and Counseling Center will provide face to face and tele-health services to meet the basic needs of quarantined and isolated students. The period of isolation will be consistent with current recommendations from the CDC, VDH and local health care system providers.
 - Days 1-3, students will be assessed by NP/PA/MD
 - Days 4-14, students assessed by RN

Contact Tracing

In collaboration with the Virginia Department of Health, the VSU office of Human Resources and the Student Health Center, we will initiate [contact tracing](#). Case investigations and contact tracing are trusted public health tools used to prevent further spread of contagious illnesses, including COVID-19. Laboratories and physicians notify the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) when patients test positive for COVID-19 or are diagnosed with the infection. Public health professionals then reach out to patients who are actively infected to conduct a confidential interview. This is part of the process of supporting patients with COVID-19 and allows VDH to make recommendations to individuals about how to limit the spread of the virus to others in the community. The interview includes helping the patient identify their close contacts during the time they were infectious. Contact tracing involves public health professionals reaching out to alert individuals (close contacts) about their potential exposure. This is done as rapidly and sensitively as possible. To protect the identity of the patient, contacts are only informed about the exposure. They are not told who the person is who may have exposed them. During the interview, the public health professional provides information about COVID-19, symptoms to watch for and how to monitor for them, testing, the importance of quarantine, and supportive services that are available. Close contacts of actively infected COVID-19 patients are asked to self-quarantine; the duration is based on when the person was last exposed to the infectious patient.

Virginia State University, on campus students, faculty and staff who have tested positive or self-reported will be contacted by a VSU contact tracer or the Virginia Department of Health. Individuals who have had contact with COVID-19 positive individuals will be contacted, offered testing and placed on quarantine or in isolation.

In addition, the VSU campus community will use [COVID WISE](#), Virginia's official COVID-19 exposure notification mobile app to assist with contact tracing and to aid our early alert efforts. It uses Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) technology to quickly notify users who have likely been exposed so one can reduce the risk of infection for friends and family and help Virginia stop the spread.

Transitioning to Remote Instruction and Services

The University will adhere to public health guidelines established by the Governor and VDH pertaining to statewide restrictions. In the event there is no mandatory statewide restriction in place, the University's Emergency Response Team in partnership with the local VDH and health system providers, will determine if campus wide conditions are severe enough to transition to remote instruction.

Shutdown

We will consider shutdown when:

1. Mandatory statewide restrictions have been put in place or in consultation with the state Epidemiologist.
2. Management of absenteeism/outbreak in combination with increased COVID-19 positive tests of students, or confidential self-reported results from faculty and staff exceeds 5% of the residential on-campus population or our internal capacity for isolation/quarantine has been exhausted.
3. It has been determined that a level of care is needed which exceeds the University's and/or local hospitals capability.

Decisions regarding dismissals and shutdowns should be made in consultation with local and state public health officials and from the Governor.

Virginia State University will adhere to its approved Continuity of Operations' Plan and information will be posted through RAVE application which is the university's emergency alert system, website, social media platforms, EAB, email, virtual town hall meetings and social media platforms.

ADDITIONAL FOCAL POINTS

The Virginia State University Campus Reopening Plan specifically address three additional institutional focal points (Health and Safety, Academic and Student Support, and Residential Campus Life) to meet the requirements detailed in the state guidance document, "[Higher Education Reopening Guidance](#)" and to strengthen their responsiveness to COVID-19.

Health and Safety

The VSU health and safety foci operationalizes health services and general and specific safety protocols for housing, resident housing, instructional facilities, dining operations, and Athletics. These are not limited to mask requirements, social distancing measures, enhanced cleaning, nor personal protective equipment (PPE) and supplies.

Student Health Center

Our team has developed a Student Health Handbook outlining student health work flow, triage scripts for student health staff and residence life staff, quarantine and isolation procedures, and telehealth procedures. Student Health Services is equipped to triage students, provide routine care, and facilitate screening and testing for COVID-19. Student Health Services will continue to collaborate with Residence Life to provide safe and confidential housing for positive COVID-19 student(s) in the event that it is needed. We have an established partnership with the Virginia Department of Health in regards to contact tracing and Bon Secours Mercy Health-Southside Regional Medical Center should a student require emergency services. The Commonwealth of Virginia has secured a contract with LabCorp to provide FDA approved COVID-19 testing. After a student is tested, they will be required to self-isolate until results are confirmed (typically within 72 hours). We encourage all faculty, staff, and students to utilize the [COVID-19 self-check](#) available through the CDC to help make decisions and seek appropriate medical care. For health related questions, please contact questions@vsu.edu.

University Counseling Center

The University Counseling Center understands the challenges of COVID-19 to our overall mental health. Students who are experiencing emotional distress or are in need of counseling or support can schedule an appointment with the University Counseling Center by calling (804) 524-5939. Counseling services will be provided using a tele-health platform and limited face to face pre-scheduled services. In addition, the Center will continue to offer group and other proactive wellness centered programs to help the VSU campus community readjust to our new norms.

Safety Protocols

Mask Requirements

Because COVID-19 is primarily spread through respiratory droplets, [Governor Northam's Executive Order 63](#) requires the wearing of masks while inside buildings.

- VSU will require that all faculty, staff, students and visitors wear masks while on campus when within 6ft of other individuals.
- All students, faculty and staff on campus will receive face coverings to comply with this requirement. Students will receive a cloth mask or gaiter in their welcome kit that can be laundered for daily use.
- Similarly, faculty and staff will be provided with disposable masks or cloth coverings for daily use and guests will be provided disposable masks for use when visiting buildings on campus.

- Signage explaining the requirements of Executive Order 63 will be posted at entrances and high visibility facilities locations.

Social Distancing

All social distancing protocols will be adhered to the extent possible, including maintaining a safe distance apart (usually 6 feet) and maintaining the practice of good personal hygiene (i.e., self-monitoring of symptoms, hand washing, etc.).

- Classroom seating charts have been modified to provide for social distancing for each of two daily cohorts with student seats shifting for each class change.
- Furnishings in classrooms, assembly areas and residence halls will be rearranged to de-densify spaces for social distancing.
- Open assembly areas will be blocked or monitored to prevent spontaneous gatherings that do not follow social distancing protocols.
- Signage to delineate safe distances and hygiene precautions will be placed campus wide.

Specific Safety Protocols for Face-to Face Instruction

The following protocols will be in place and enforced in classroom settings for face -to-face instruction:

- All classrooms have been restructured to support social distancing for students and faculty
- Students and faculty are required to wear face masks or cloth face coverings to reduce the potential spread of the COVID-19 from person to person in accordance with [Governor Northam's Executive Order 63](#).
 - Note:
 - Face coverings must be worn in times when at least six feet physical distancing cannot be maintained.
 - During meetings or gatherings or in narrow hallways or other settings where physical distancing may not be easy to maintain, a face covering must be worn
- Students and faculty are also encouraged to use hand sanitizing stations at the entrances to classroom buildings prior to entering classrooms.
- Students and faculty are also encouraged to use provided sanitizing wipes to disinfect the surfaces of desks and learning stations both before and after use.

- Students experiencing symptoms consistent with coronavirus infection are strongly encouraged to avoid classroom settings and seek care from either the Student Health Center or their independent health care provider.

Faculty experiencing symptoms consistent with coronavirus infection are strongly encouraged to avoid classroom settings and seek care from their independent health care provider.

Specific Safety Protocols for Athletics

Virginia State University Department of Athletics COVID-19 Management Plan

This Virginia State University Department of Athletics COVID-19 Management Plan is a collaboration among sports medicine professionals. The goal is to provide safe procedures dealing with COVID-19 based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), State and Local Government in addition to collaborating with VCU Sports Medicine to provide guidelines and recommendations for the VSU Department of Athletics management plan during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Enhanced Cleaning

Custodians will perform enhanced cleaning in instructional spaces once per day at the beginning or end of each day in accordance with class schedules. Classes have been scheduled with a 30-minute break between cohorts. Between classroom uses, the custodial staff will disinfect the room with an electrostatic sprayer to make it ready for the next cohort. High-touch areas such as lobbies, elevators, corridors and door handles, and public restrooms will be wiped and disinfected continuously throughout the day using products approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Student Health Clinic and Counseling Center at Memorial Hall will require not only enhanced cleaning and disinfecting services, but also a custodian that provides continuous cleaning of exam rooms and counselling spaces while medical staff attend to patients.

High-touch areas in residential facilities such as community restrooms, elevators, corridors, laundry rooms and vending machines will be wiped and disinfected continuously throughout the day in accordance with resident schedules and privacy precautions. Occupied faculty and staff offices will be cleaned daily as directed by the building managers and occupants.

Specific Thompson Hospitality Management Dining Safety Protocols

- Complete final sanitization of the entire Dining Facility (1 Week Prior to University Opening)
- We will incorporate a cyclic cleaning of high touch areas (Daily/Shift Routine List every 20 Minutes- Once University Opens)
- We will provide enhanced training for Service and Custodial staff (Daily/Ongoing)

- We will utilize informational signage/messaging to encourage safe practices (e.g. wash hands, don't touch face, if sick stay home)
- Additional hand sanitizer stands will be placed throughout Facility
- Trash cans will be placed near bathroom doors

In addition, we will employ a student and client focus approach to communicate and reiterate the importance of physical safety and general safety guidelines while dining and/or visiting the dining venues.

- Proper PPE donning prior to entering the facility
- Proper Handwashing and Sanitizing prior to entry or service points
- Infrared thermometer stations at campus designated entry points
- Efficient Signage to inform students and faculty on local health department guidelines in the event that a cluster occurs

PPE and Supplies

Common areas in all occupied buildings such as entrances, lobbies, elevators, laundry facilities and shared restrooms will be equipped with large volume hand sanitizer stations and disinfectant wipes dispensers for “clean as you go” after each use to supplement the enhanced cleaning in high touch areas.

Occupied faculty and staff offices will be provided with disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, and disposable masks for use when on campus to supplement daily cleaning.

Some essential workers such as the campus police department and Student Health will be provided special equipment such as face shields, goggles and isolation gowns. Faculty and staff in customer contact roles have been provided with desk shields, separation panels, face shields, safety glasses, and nitrile gloves as required.

To contain spread, each classroom will be equipped with hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes to enable students to disinfect individual desks/chairs and for faculty to disinfect the lectern/table/AV controls at the start of every class. In addition to professional cleaning once per day, the classroom PPE will allow students and faculty to “clean as they go” by wiping down desks and workspaces when needed. Classroom schedules have allowed for a 30-minute break between cohorts. During this time, facilities staff equipped with PPE will disinfect each classroom with an electrostatic disinfectant sprayer.

Floor stand hand sanitizer dispensers will be installed in common areas inside classroom buildings and classrooms and labs will be equipped with pump bottles or floor stand hand sanitizer dispensers depending upon room size. Computer labs with multiple users have been provided with disposable keyboard covers. Public restrooms will be equipped with hand

sanitizer stations and disinfecting wipes. Each classroom building will contain attic stock of commonly used items such as disposable masks, sanitizing wipes, floor stand hand sanitizer refill bottles, and nitrile gloves to be used by building occupants as needed. The building manager or other responsible person in charge will be designated by the occupants of each building to be responsible for distributing attic stock of cleaning and disinfecting supplies and PPE when supplies in classrooms are low.

All students will receive a welcome back kit when they return to campus for the fall semester. The kit will contain safe practices literature, a cloth mask or gaiter, gloves, hand sanitizer and a safe touch tool that allows students to open doors and push buttons without touching.

Students that are suspected or known to be infected with the COVID 19 virus will be housed at the Whiting Residence Hall during quarantine or isolation periods. Student rooms in this building will be provided with a trash can and liners so that trash can be discarded without students leaving the space. Students will place sealed trash bags in the hallway each morning before 10:00 AM for pick up and disposal by the custodial staff. Student restrooms at Whiting Hall will be supplied with disinfecting wipes and toilet paper. Custodial staff will enter and clean/disinfect student restrooms and living quarters after rooms are unoccupied for more than 24 hours.

Control Access to Campus

Employees needed for the success of in-person instruction and those performing essential functions will return to campus, while some departments will continue to work remotely. This will allow the University to better manage necessary cleaning and safety supply costs and institute additional energy management measures in unoccupied offices.

Academic and Student Support

Instruction

Virginia State University will begin on campus classes on Monday, February 1, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 health and safety recommendations, and in an effort to remain flexible and maintain low-density classrooms, VSU will offer four modalities of course delivery: Online/Remote Instruction, Hybrid Instruction (combination of face-to-face and remote learning), Hyflex Instruction (Combination of face-to-face/remote /online learning) and Face-to-Face Instruction. With these modes of delivery, VSU students will be divided into three populations: residential (on-campus) students, commuter students, and online students. s.

Note: Returning residential students and commuter students can utilize all four modalities of course delivery - Online/Remote, Face-to-Face, Hybrid, and HyFlex Instruction.

Online Instruction (Non-Residential/Non-Commuting Students)

Non-Residential/Non-Commuter students will have the opportunity to take online classes. VSU will provide a full complement of online classes that ensures student matriculation and timely graduation. Students should consult their academic advisors when selecting courses.

Hybrid Instruction (Combination of face-to-face/remote /online learning)

Hybrid courses allow flexibility in the learning environment. Instruction is provided through a combination of face-to-face, remote, and online learning experiences. Only residential or commuting students may enroll in the hybrid courses.

HyFlex Instruction (Combination of face-to-face/remote /online learning)

HyFlex allow additional flexibility in the teaching and learning process. These courses are delivered in-person and online at the same time by the same faculty member. Most students will attend the class in-person. A limited number of students will be allowed to attend virtually. All student participation is expected during scheduled class times.

Face-to-Face/On-Campus Instruction – Residential Students and Commuters Students

The following groups of students will have priority for face-to-face classes:

- New and Returning Freshmen (Student with fewer than 30 credit hours)
- Seniors (Students with 90 credits or more)
- Student Athletes (All Classifications)
- Student Leaders (All Classifications)
- Commuter Students (All Classifications - based on course availability and capacity)

Senior Students Instruction Model

Hybrid Senior Completion Model

This model provides face-to-face courses needed for seniors with 90 or more credit hours to ensure that the altered semester does not impede graduation. Therefore, we will offer in-person classes for seniors in addition to online and hybrid courses. This model allows us to offer face-to-face senior capstone courses and upper level courses where hands-on activities and access to specialized equipment/instruction would be difficult to replicate virtually.

Graduate Students Instruction Model

Hybrid Graduate Instruction Model

This model provides face-to-face, online, and hybrid courses for graduate students. With limited classroom capacity due to social distancing requirements, priority for face-to-face instruction will be primarily for courses that require hands-on activities and access to specialized equipment/instruction. Although graduate students will be a part of the commuter population, it is our belief that as working professionals and mature students, they will adhere to all CDC and VHD guidelines and processes to ensure the safety and well-being of the campus community. Graduate students will be engaged in face-to-face instruction will be required to adhere to the University's Face-to-Face Instruction Safety Protocols.

Graduate Assistants (GAs) will be expected to complete all required work obligations in accordance with their assigned departments. For some departments, GAs will continue to work remotely, while other departments may require GAs to work on campus, or with a modified schedule to include telework options. GA should consult with department head to determine the appropriate methods for reporting to work.

Student Support Services

The University will provide additional virtual learning supports for online students .

- *Advisement* – Academic advisors will offer virtual meetings for students.
 - Freshmen - ACE academic advisors will be available via telephone and virtual meeting Monday through Friday from 9:00am – 5:00pm (804-524-3095).
 - All Other Students - Please contact your faculty advisor for appointments.
- *Strategic Learning* – Remote tutoring, small group sessions, and academic coaching sessions will be available via zoom. Weekly seminars and/or webinars will be available via the internet for both on-campus and remote students.
- *Career Service* – New employment information, internships, and experiential learning opportunities will be communicated via email to all students. This information will also be available via the Career Services website. Resume or cover letter can be submitted for a critique through email (careerservices@vsu.edu). Career Services staff will also conduct virtual career coaching sessions.
- *Writing Center* – Assistance with writing assignments is available online and by appointment. Feedback and critique of writing assignment will be offered through the online tutorial service, Smarthinking.
- *University Counseling* - Counseling services will be provided using a tele-health platform (804) 524-5939.

- *Student Accessibility Office* – Accessibility and accommodation services will be provided virtually upon request (804) 524-2990.

Spring 2021 Academic Calendar Adjustments

The following adjustments have been made to the [spring 2021 academic calendar](#) :

- The delayed start date of February 1st is achieved by extending the end of classes to May 7th and replacing Spring Break with two Trojan Wellness Days (March 24 and April 15).
- Class meeting times remain unchanged.
- The two-week delay will also slightly shift the beginning of the 2021 Summer Session.

Residential Campus Life

Residence Life and Housing

The Spring 2021 on-campus housing capacity will be reduced to adhere with Virginia Department of Health guidelines and the Association for College and University Housing Officers-International, (ACUHO-I). The occupancy capacity and enhanced procedures applicable to all residential students are outlined below:

- In accordance with health and social distancing guidance, student housing options will include single occupancy only.
- Preference for on-campus housing will be given to freshmen (students with fewer than 30 credit hours), student leaders, student athletes and graduating seniors (students with 90 credits or more).
- Additional on-campus housing may be made available for other students based on maximum capacity. Students may be considered based upon housing applications submitted prior to November 13, 2020. Students who do not secure on-campus housing may also be referred to additional off campus housing. For more information, please Contact Residence Life at reslife@vsu.edu.
- In addition to the required general COVID-19 training, all on-campus students will engage in residential specific health and safety training to address new safety and cleaning protocols within their assigned spaces to reduce the spread of COVID-19 within residence halls.

- All residents will be provided Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) upon arrival on campus. Students will be required to wear face masks at all times in the common areas within the residence hall.
 - Note:
 - Face coverings must be worn in times when at least six feet physical distancing cannot be maintained.
 - During meetings or gatherings or in narrow hallways or other settings where physical distancing may not be easy to maintain, a face covering must be worn
- Facilities will continue to implement and modify its cleaning protocols for common areas to address COVID-19 and minimize spread of disease.
- Hand sanitizer stations are located in all residence hall lobbies.

Student Activities

In order to promote student engagement, the Department of Student Activities will provide face to face and virtual programs for students. Currently, the Governor’s mandate states that no institutions of higher education shall hold or host gatherings of more than 50 individuals. The University will continue to monitor this as we consider plans to host the postponed spring 2020 Commencement and the fall 2020 Commencement in December as well as other large gatherings on-campus.

The Department of Student Activities will have limited face to face meetings with Student Organizations to adhere to VDH guidelines and the Governor’s mandate regarding gathers of 50 or fewer people. However, several virtual platforms will be utilized to deliver programing and services to students on and off campus.

Dining Services

At a moment’s glance, the Dining Services Team will consider emergency contingency operations daily as circumstances elevate or decrease during this timeframe. Quarantined students or designated shut-in residence halls on campus will be serviced by a need and case by case basis. (Following University Guidance).

Every consideration and action will be clear and concise with credence to the current health guidelines and customer service elements towards a positive and safe dining experience at Virginia State University. Dining services will be adjusted to accommodate a lower-density model consisting of limited dine-in options with social distancing protocols in place and increased ‘grab & go’ meal options. Restaurants in Foster Hall will have limited hours of operation with **pre-ordering only** and window pick up options.

Students will have adjusted/assigned One Card Accessibility based on residence hall assignments and campus proximity.

Social Dining & Hours of Operations

Serving 270 Students every hour on the hour at three dining locations for Lunch & Dinner with proper distancing, under proper guidelines

- Breakfast – Jones Hall will be the only venue for Breakfast
- Breakfast Hours 7 AM – 9:30 AM (Jones Hall Only)
- Jones Hall : Lunch 11AM – 2PM , Dinner 4:30 – 8:00 PM
- Gateway: Lunch 11AM – 2PM , Dinner 4:30 – 8:00 PM
- Foster Hall: Counter Service Only * 11AM – 9:00 PM
- Dining Hall Sanitation Hours: 10 AM, 3 PM, & 9PM Daily
- No Services Provided During the 60 minute Sanitation Hour

****(All Dining Facilities will have assigned Customer Retail Service Periods for All with VSU ONE Card Meal Transactions based on residence hall assignments and campus proximity. Mobile App for ordering would be an additional service point for the student population and will involve campus technologies department) ****

Dining Safety Overview and Requirements

I. Sanitation & Safety

- A. Complete final sanitization of the entire Dining Facility (1 Week Prior to University Opening)
- B. We will incorporate a cyclic cleaning of high touch areas (Daily/Shift Routine List every 20 Minutes- Once University Opens)
- C. We will provide enhanced training for Service and Custodial staff (Daily/Ongoing)
- D. We will utilize informational signage/messaging to encourage safe practices (e.g. wash hands, don't touch face, if sick stay home)
- E. Additional hand sanitizer stands will be placed throughout Facility
- F. Trash cans will be placed near bathroom doors
- G. Only One Guest/Student in the restrooms at a time

II. Customer Focus

We will employ a student and client focus approach to communicate and reiterate the importance of physical safety and general safety guidelines while dining and/or visiting the dining venues.

- A. Proper PPE donning prior to entering the facility
- B. Proper Handwashing and Sanitizing prior to entry or service points
- C. Infrared thermometer stations at campus designated entry points

D. Efficient Signage to inform students and faculty on local health department guidelines in the event that a cluster occurs

VSU Campus Bookstore (Follett)

The Virginia State University Bookstore values our customers and our employees and has adopted the following protocols to ensure the health of safety of its clients:

1. Both doors will be marked for entering and exiting store.
2. Only 12 people will be allowed in the store at a time, this will include the workers.
3. All customers must wear a face mask or shield when entering and while in the store.
4. Signs will be posted for social distancing and marking can be seen on floor.
5. Protective shields have been placed at each registers for employee and customer safety.
6. Register and area around register will be wiped down after each customer.
7. We ask all students that have a fever or feeling sick please refrain from coming into the bookstore.
8. We will encourage students, staff, and other customers to take advantage of our curbside pickup for all online orders www.vsushop.com. Curbside will be available Monday thru Thursday 10am to 2:45 pm, customers will call into the store 804-524-5691 tell the sales associate you are here for online pick up. Curbside will locate in back of store "loading zone area".
9. If one of the employee comes down with COVID Follett and VSU will be notified immediately.

It's important to note that these protocols apply to all respective classroom instruction methods.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Crosswalk/Alignment - Focus Areas & SCHEV Guidelines

REPOPULATION OF THE CAMPUS

SCHEV Response Guideline:

- a. Establishment of a Covid-19 Coordinator/Campus Team, Contact Information And Procedures For Reaching The Local Health Department
- b. Partnership and communication/information sharing with local community, health systems and other stakeholders.
- c. Students' initial return to campus (such as initial screening, move-in), Education/training of students: consider COVID-19 prevention education as part of student orientation. (hand washing, staying home if ill, etc.) Physical Distancing, according to CDC guidance, Hygiene practices and cleaning/disinfecting protocols.
- d. Consideration of vulnerable individuals (e.g. 65 years or older, underlying health conditions)
- e. International student considerations (e.g. COVID-19 travel health risks, CDC returning travelers guidelines, travel registry, etc.)
- f. Housing: it is difficult to maintain physical distancing on-campus, even with modifications. Plans should consider strategies to decrease the risk such as requirements for face coverings in shared spaces, reminders of proper hand hygiene, enhanced cleaning, training for residential advisors/live-in staff, restrictions on events/social activities in housing facilities, establishment of occupancy limits, restrictions on building access, etc. IHEs may want to require training and document training of certain staff.
- g. Face coverings (students, faculty and staff)
- h. Student Health Services

MONITORING HEALTH CONDITIONS TO DETECT INFECTION

SCHEV Response Guideline

- a. Daily health screening questions and/or other health monitoring approaches that can be used to monitor health of the campus population.
- b. Campus level syndromic (disease) surveillance using electronic health record data or other disease surveillance methods as feasible.

- c. Establishment of a testing strategy. Testing strategies should consider testing for all students, faculty or staff with symptoms and access to testing for close contacts of cases as recommended by public health. Institutions may consult with their local health department, local health systems and other relevant partners.

CONTAINMENT TO PREVENT SPREAD OF THE DISEASE WHEN DETECTED

SCHEV Response Guideline

- a. Continued communication with VDH/contact tracers.
- b. Confidential and safe housing accommodation for COVID-19 positive students.

SHUTDOWN CONSIDERATIONS IF NECESSITATED BY SEVERE CONDITIONS AND/OR PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE

SCHEV Response Guideline

- a. Partnership with VDH for contact tracing
- b. Quarantining and isolating (provision of housing, basic needs, medical case Management, Campus outbreak management, Partnership with local health systems to assure care for symptomatic individuals as needed. (E.g. a local health system representative could serve on the COVID-19 team)
- c. Plans regarding the criteria and process for campus dismissals or shutdowns.
- d. Decisions regarding dismissals and shutdowns should be made in consultation with local and state public health officials. Nature of reduced campus activity in the event of severe conditions/public health direction or guidance
- e. Considerations regarding student health and safety on campus versus returning home
- f. Communications plan for dismissals/shutdowns

Appendix B – VSU Emergency Preparedness and Response Team

On March 4, President Abdullah charged the VSU Emergency Preparedness and Response Team (EPR Team) to create a proactively responsive plan to the emerging COVID-19 health crisis. The team represented a cross section of the University community including leaders from the Student Government Association, and the Staff and Faculty Senates. In addition, members represented multiple campus divisions including, the President’s Office, Provost’s Office, Institutional Effectiveness and Planning, Clinical and Mental Health, Public Safety, Academic and Student Affairs, Finance, Human Resources, Research and Economic Development, Facilities Management, Communications and Residence Life. We also included the voice of our external Healthcare experts through our partnership with the Virginia Department of Health and Bon Secours Mercy Health-Southside Regional Medical Center.

Virginia State University has remained inclusive throughout this crisis and consistently shared ownership in this process while providing up-to-date information to the campus community as quickly as possible. On May 4, 2020, the Provost seeking feedback from all sectors of the University community established a Sub-Committees of the Emergency Preparedness Team (The Fall 2020 Reopening Task Force) to Explore VSU Re-Opening for fall 2020.

EPR Team Members

Makola Abdullah, President and Chair

Donald Palm, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs

Danika Clemmons, Director of Student Health

Christy Johnson Oliver, Coordinator of the University Health Center

Hubert Harris, Chief of Staff

Tanya Simmons, Director of Human Resources

Annie Redd Special Assistant to the President and Board Liaison

Kevin Davenport, Vice President of Finance and CFO

Reshunda Mahone*/Charmica Epps Interim Vice President of Institutional Advancement

Robert N. Corley III, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Affairs/SCHEV Liaison/Wallace UPPI PD

Tia Minnis, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Affairs/Executive Director for Institutional Effectiveness/SACSCOC and SCHEV Liaison

Jame'l Hodges*/Regina Barnett-Tyler Interim Associate Vice President for Student Success and Engagement

Cynthia Ellison, Director of the University Counseling Center

Rodney Hall, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management

Cheryl Adeyemi, Vice Chair VSU University Council

Zoe Spencer, Chair VSU Faculty Senate

Maxine Sample, Vice Chair VSU Faculty Senate

Paula McCapes, Chair VSU Staff Senate

Joshua Hines, Student Government Association President

Cynthia Ellison, Director of the University Counseling Center

Henry Debose, University Ombudsman

Kawachi Clemons, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs

Shelia McNair, Associate Vice President of Finance

Jane Harris – Assistant VP of Capital Outlay & Facilities

Adrian Petway, Budget Director

Gwen Dandridge, Interim Director of Communications

Kelvin Rachel, Dean of Students

Casey Perry, Director of Student Activities

Derrick Peterson, Director of Resident Life and Housing

David Bragg, Chief VSU Public Safety

Dale Mason, Director of Risk Management

Ramona Taylor, University Counsel*

** Former Members*

Appendix C – VSU Department of Athletics COVID-19 Management Plan

This Virginia State University Department of Athletics COVID-19 Management Plan policy is a collaboration among sports medicine professionals. The goal is to provide safe procedures dealing with COVID-19 based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), State and Local Government in addition to collaborating with VCU Sports Medicine to provide guidelines and recommendations for the VSU Department of Athletics management plan during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Please note that this document along with any defined practices and procedures therein are subject to change as Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), State and Local Government or University updates are released.*

Before returning to campus/preseason education

1. Contact and advise student-athletes to quarantine for 14 days prior to designated campus return date
 - During the quarantine period student-athletes are to monitor their health for symptoms of COVID-19.
 - If students develop symptoms during the 14 day quarantine, they should call their healthcare provider to get tested. Students who test negative should still quarantine for the full 14 days and continue to monitor their health and if symptoms worsen, seek medical care. (NOTE: Testing negative **does not** rule out testing positive or getting sick later. You may be in the early stages of the disease.)
 - Student-athletes who test positive with COVID-19 **must not return to campus** and follow the directions of their healthcare provider in addition to receiving negative results from two consecutive COVID-19 swabs collected more than 24 hours apart. (NOTE: A positive test does not necessarily mean you will be immune from COVID-19.)
2. All student-athletes must complete a COVID-19 questionnaire to confirm the absence of symptoms/exposure during the 14 day quarantine period.
3. Cardiovascular screening/testing may be required for any student-athletes who were diagnosed with COVID-19 or who likely had COVID-19. This will be decided upon by the team physician.
4. Student-athletes must adhere to the mandates and recommendations put forth by the CDC, state, local governments, VSU, and the Department of Athletics.
5. Student-athletes must agree to early self-reporting of any possible COVID-19 symptoms to the appropriate VSU staff personnel immediately (athletic training staff, head coach, and VSU Student Health Services).
6. Student-athletes at a higher-risk of being negatively impacted by COVID-19 (including but not limited to student-athletes with hypertension, asthma, obesity, sickle cell, and diabetes) will need individualized education provided by medical staff and may be medically disqualified from athletics participation.

Returning to Campus

1. A mask is required (provided by athletics) when in any VSU building or VSU athletic facility.
2. All individuals will be required to have a temperature screen upon arrival at testing site. Any student-athlete with a temperature above 100.3 will be rechecked with a different thermometer. If still elevated, the temperature will be rechecked in 10 minutes. If the temperature has not improved after 10 minutes, the individual will be referred to VSU Student Health Services/team physician immediately.
3. All student-athletes and staff will be tested upon initial return to campus.
4. Education on daily self-health evaluation (temperature check/symptoms check) will be provided to student-athletes immediately.

If a student-athlete is notified they have been exposed to COVID-19 while on campus

1. The appropriate VSU staff personnel will be notified immediately (athletic trainer, head coach, Associate VP for Intercollegiate Athletics, team physician, and VSU Student Health Services).
2. The student-athlete(s) will be quarantined for 14 days and monitor their health closely in case they become ill.
3. Further instructions on participation will be provided after discussion with team physician.

If a student-athlete develops COVID-19 related symptoms

1. The appropriate VSU staff personnel will be notified immediately (athletic trainer, head coach, Associate VP for Intercollegiate Athletics, team physician, and VSU Student Health Services).
2. Student-athletes must isolate immediately while in contact with the athletic trainer and await further instructions.
3. The athletic trainer will consult with the team physician/designee to determine level of risk and move forward with an appropriate treatment plan.
4. The student-athlete must receive medical attention (VSU Student Health Services or a medical physician) immediately for a health evaluation and testing.
 - COVID-19 related symptomatic student-athletes will be tested by VSU Student Health Services
5. Student-athletes, staff, or a team who may have been in contact with symptomatic individuals will be quarantined for 14 days and monitor their health closely in case they become ill.

If a student-athlete tests positive for COVID-19

1. The appropriate VSU staff personnel will be notified immediately (athletic trainer, head coach, Associate VP for Intercollegiate Athletics, team physician, and VSU Student Health Services).

2. All athletically related activities for the respective sport will be immediately discontinued.
3. The team physician/designee will develop a plan of action and method of care based on the provided medical documentation of a positive test.
 - The student-athlete must self-isolate at least 10 days since the onset of their symptoms;
 - If student-athlete never developed symptoms, they must isolate at least 10 days since their positive test;
 - Student-athlete must receive 2 negative test (greater than or equal to 24 hours apart) results after isolation period.
4. The student-athlete will be provided with a daily symptom checklist and will also be monitored daily by a member of the athletic training staff or VSU Student Health Services.

Defined Entry & Exits

1. The athletic department will define Entry and Exit Doorways for all athletic buildings in accordance with standards set forth by the University social distancing policies.
2. Any person entering or exiting any athletic area/venue/building is required to follow signage regarding regulations for entry and exit.

Athletically Related Activity Allowed Per Phase

Phase 1

- Mask usage during practice is recommended when appropriate
- Spacing of 10 feet is required
- No direct contact
- No equipment sharing unless cleaned after each individual use

Phase 2

- Physical distancing or mask usage during practice is recommended when appropriate
- Spacing of 6 to 10 feet is required when appropriate
- Limited contact with groups/cohorts of 10 or less people
- Limited equipment sharing with frequent cleanings between uses when possible

Phase 3

- Physical distancing or mask usage during practice and competition is recommended when appropriate
- Spacing of 6 to 10 feet is required when appropriate
- Return to normal activities
- Limited equipment sharing with frequent cleanings between uses when possible

Phase 4

- No restriction on athletically related activities

Daily Athletic Requirements

In planning practice sessions, coaches must follow state guidelines regarding social distancing and maximum number of people in or on a facility. This may require coaches to plan several practice and strength and conditioning sessions to accommodate all of their student-athletes. It is the responsibility of the coaches to communicate training session times, locations, or changes with the appropriate personnel to ensure availability and that the appropriate coverage may be provided.

1. All individuals will be required to have a temperature screen prior to entering any athletic facility.

- Any student-athlete with a temperature above 100.3 will be rechecked with a different thermometer.

- If still elevated, the temperature will be rechecked in 10 minutes. If the temperature has not improved after 10 minutes, the individual will not be allowed to participate and will be sent to VSU Student Health Services immediately.

2. CoVID-19 testing for student-athletes will be conducted once per week or 48 to 72 hours prior to competition.

- Student-athletes will be tested within the athletic department after the initial return to campus check-in

- COVID-19 related symptomatic student-athletes will be tested by VSU Student Health Services

3. Student-athletes, coaches, and staff will be required to submit a daily self-health evaluation screening (via Sportsware) 3 hours prior to a scheduled practice/strength and conditioning activities or by 3pm on non-practice/strength and conditioning activity days.

4. All individuals will be required to use hand sanitizer or wash hands before and after all countable athletically related activities. **A FACE COVERING MUST BE WORN WHEN APPROPRIATE DURING PARTICIPATION AND IN ALL VSU BUILDINGS/FACILITIES.**

- Exceptions on when masks and face coverings are not required:

- o Actively eating or drinking

- o During strenuous exercise

- o When giving a speech or a broadcast to an audience

- o Communicating with someone who is hearing impaired in a way the required the mouth to be visible

Daily Athletic Training Room Operations

1. All individuals will be required to have a temperature screen prior to entering the athletic training room.

- Any student-athlete with a temperature above 100.3 will be rechecked with a different thermometer.

- If still elevated, the temperature will be rechecked in 10 minutes. If the temperature has not improved after 10 minutes, the individual will not be allowed to participate and will be sent to VSU Student Health Services/team physician immediately.

2. All individuals will be required to use hand sanitizer or wash hands before and after receiving or providing any service in the athletic training room. **A FACE COVERING MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES IN THE ATHLETIC TRAINING ROOM.**

3. Only 6 people, including staff and student-athletes, will be allowed to occupy the athletic training room at a time. All student-athletes will be required to maintain six feet of social distancing when possible.

4. During athletic training room treatment/rehab hours, all student-athletes will be required to make an appointment to enter the training room.

- If students are waiting for entrance outside of the training room they must maintain six feet for social distancing when possible.

5. Medical tables and equipment will be adequately spaced six feet apart in the athletic training room.

6. All treatment/rehab equipment will be disinfected after each use by the athletic training staff. Items that cannot be disinfected will be discarded.

7. All student-athletes are encouraged to leave personal belongings in their rooms, vehicles, or locker rooms prior to entering the athletic training room to receive treatment/rehab.

8. The athletic training room area will be sanitized after each treatment session and after each assigned practice time.

9. Multipurpose Center: At the conclusion of each team's athletic training treatment/rehab session, the athletic training room will be closed for an hour, for cleaning and sanitization prior to the next team's athletic training treatment/rehab session. (Note: Ideally housekeeping would be afforded 1 hour to clean and sanitize this area.) During the duration of each athletic training treatment/rehab session, student athletes/coaches/athletic trainers will sanitize the tables and equipment after each use. Housekeeping will sanitize the athletic training room with an EPA-approved disinfectant applied via electrostatic sprayer. At the conclusion of the final athletic training treatment/rehab session, housekeeping will wipe down all tables and equipment in addition to sanitizing the athletic training room and will mop all floors.

Daily Athletic Weight Room Operations

1. All individuals will be required to have a temperature screen prior to entering the athletic weight rooms.

- Any student-athlete with a temperature above 100.3 will be rechecked with a different thermometer.

- If still elevated, the temperature will be rechecked in 10 minutes. If the temperature has not improved after 10 minutes, the individual will not be allowed to participate and will be sent to VSU Student Health Services immediately.

2. To aid in contact tracing, all individuals are required to sign-in prior to entering the athletic weight rooms.

3. All individuals will be required to use hand sanitizer or wash hands periodically while in the athletic weight rooms. **A FACE COVERING MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES IN THE ATHLETIC WEIGHT ROOMS WHEN APPROPRIATE.**
4. Only 10 people, including staff and student-athletes, will be allowed to occupy the athletic weight rooms at a time. All student-athletes will be required to maintain six feet of social distancing when possible.
5. Cups and a cooler will be provided for hydration during practice and strength and conditioning
6. Sanitation stations with hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes and spray will be available in each athletic weight room.
7. Student-athletes are only allowed in the athletic weight rooms or practice areas during their respective times as designate by the coach.
 - If students are waiting for entrance outside of the athletic weight rooms, they must maintain six feet for social distancing when possible.
8. Athletic weight room equipment will be adequately designated for use to ensure spacing is six feet apart.
9. All equipment will be disinfected before and after each use by each student-athlete.
10. All student-athletes are encouraged to leave personal belongings in their rooms, vehicles, or locker rooms prior to entering the athletic weight rooms or any practice area.
11. The athletic weight rooms and practice areas will be sanitized after each session and after each assigned practice time.
12. Multipurpose Center: At the conclusion of each strength and conditioning session, the weight room will be closed for an hour, for cleaning and sanitization prior to the next team's strength and conditioning session. (Note: Ideally housekeeping would be afforded 1 hour to clean and sanitize this area.) During the duration of each strength and conditioning session, student athletes/coaches/personnel will sanitize the equipment after each use. Housekeeping will sanitize the weight room with an EPA-approved disinfectant applied via electrostatic sprayer. At the conclusion of the final strength and conditioning session, housekeeping will wipe down all equipment in addition to sanitizing the weight room and will mop the floor.

Locker Rooms

1. Teams will be permitted to use locker rooms with strict social distancing practices in place.
2. Coach will assign each student-athlete to a group/cohort with designated times for entry and exit into assigned locker rooms.

3. Once the home and visiting teams have accessed their locker room spaces before and during competition, only those team members are allowed inside the locker room and no outside individuals are allowed.
4. VSU will ensure the visiting team locker room will be adequately stocked with sanitizing wipes, dispensers, and etc.
5. Sanitation of the locker room and any area leading into the locker rooms will be sanitized prior to and following each group/cohort entry and exit into the designated locker room area.
- 6. Locker rooms will no longer serve as a “hang out” or “lounge” area for student-athletes.**
7. Student-athletes must enter for purposes of changing or collecting gear or equipment for practices and competition only.
8. Locker room sanitation will be the shared responsibility of the student-athletes, coaches, and designated cleaning personnel.
9. Student-athletes will be responsible for keeping their locker and clothing/equipment tidy and clean.
10. All visiting team and officials locker rooms will be cleaned and sanitized before and after each use.

Team Laundry

1. Managers, student-athletes or coaches that plan to use laundry facilities to wash gear, practice clothing, or game uniforms will adhere to the guidelines set forth effective immediately. Laundry regulations were created using the CDC guidelines for community laundry facilities.
2. One manager or team designee is permitted to launder in athletic laundry facilities. Signage will be posted in all athletic laundry areas with regulations clearly stated.
 - Laundry must be washed in hot water for a minimum of 25 minutes to ensure sanitation
 - Face masks must be worn while both collecting and washing team laundry
 - Gloves must be worn at all times while handling laundry
- Gloves must be disposed of properly after sorting, starting, and changing over laundry loads.
3. Multipurpose Center: Between the hours of 6PM and 6AM and after all athletic competitions, the laundry room will be closed for sanitization with an EPA-approved disinfectant applied via electrostatic sprayer as well as hand cleaning and wiping of all washers, dryers, and high touch areas, as well as mopping the floor.

Multipurpose Center

1. Practice Gym/Arena Court At the conclusion of each practice, the practice gym will be closed for an hour, for cleaning and sanitization prior to the next team’s practice. (Note: Ideally housekeeping would be afforded 1 hour to clean and sanitize this area.) The wall pads, gym floor, and restrooms will be sanitized with an EPA-approved disinfectant applied via electrostatic sprayer. Upon completion, high touch areas such as door handles, basketball goals, and restroom fixtures will be hand cleaned and wiped to ensure cleanliness.

2. Arena Court (Competition): After all athletic competitions, the court will be mopped and sanitized with an EPA-approved disinfectant. Court fixtures will be sanitized with an EPA-approved disinfectant applied via electrostatic sprayer as well as hand cleaned and wiped; this includes all player bench seats, scorer's tables, and goals.

Traveling Guidelines (Competition, Practice, and Medical Appointments)

1. CoVID-19 testing for all traveling individuals will be conducted 48 to 72 hours prior to departure.
2. All traveling individuals will be required to submit a daily self-health evaluation screening (via Sportsware) 3 hours prior to departure
3. All individuals will be screened before getting on the bus/van for travel.
4. Masks shall be worn at all times while on the bus/van unless eating or drinking.
5. Pre-packaged meals will be provided
6. Travel party sizes may be reduced
7. Vehicle sanitation guidelines will be enforced
8. Proper social distancing, when appropriate, will be implemented on the bus/van.
9. For overnight lodging, student-athletes and coaches will wipe down touch points prior to unpacking.
 - Phones, light switches, door knobs, drawer pulls, TV remotes, outlet covers, and etc.
10. In case someone exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, VSU recommends traveling with a "chase van" that would enable social isolation of the individual. Only those individuals approved to operate a vehicle on behalf of VSU are eligible to transport.

Visiting Institutions and Officials Protocol

- ☒ Visiting teams will provide the VSU athletic training staff with attestation of testing/screens/temperature check for our records at least 24 hours prior to the contest.
- ☒ Teams will not disembark team vehicle(s) until a representative from VSU Athletics has instructed them that the facility is ready for entrance.
- ☒ Game officials and visiting personnel will be screened at the loading dock checkpoint
- ☒ A certified athletic trainer (visiting or home trainer) will check the temperature of all individuals upon arrival.

- ☒ VSU Athletics will provide a space for visiting teams and officials, with no access by other entities once sanitized.
- ☒ All individuals will wear a mask/ face covering (covering mouth and nose) In All VSU Buildings/Facilities when not participating.
- ☒ The officials timing packs will be sanitized before and after each contest
- ☒ No towels will be provided

Pre-Game Requirements

- ☒ All individuals will observe the no contact policy during pregame warmup and activities
 - No handshakes or physical contact

In Game Requirements

VSU will limit game day staff interactions with team members and game officials

Indoor Sports

☒ Student-athletes should socially distance when possible, within the NCAA sanctioned team area. Those not actively participating should wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to include masks/gaiters, gloves, and face shields. Below are recommendations for specific sports.

o Volleyball- the teams will not switch benches between sets.

☒ VSU will provide enough single use cups for hydration

☒ Adequate injury ice will be available on each sideline

☒ Due to COVID-19 restrictions, no modalities will be available at VSU, unless previously discussed with athletic training staff prior to arrival, and only under extraordinary circumstances.

Outdoor Sports

☒ Due to the nature of outdoor sports, student-athletes should socially distance when possible, within the NCAA sanctioned team area. Those not actively participating should wear appropriate PPE (masks/gaiters, gloves, and face shields). Below are recommendations for specific sports.

o Football – It is a recommendation that teams utilize helmet splash shields.

☒ VSU will provide enough single use cups for hydration.

☒ Adequate injury ice will be available on each sideline

☒ Taping/evaluation table should be provided on the sideline or in the athletic training room facility.

☒ Due to COVID-19 restrictions, no modalities will be available at host sites, unless previously discussed with athletic training staff prior to arrival, and only under extraordinary circumstances.

Post-Game Requirements

☒ All individuals will leave playing surface immediately after competition observing the no contact policy

- No handshakes or physical contact

☒ All individuals must wear a mask until they depart VSU.

☒ Any student-athlete or member of the team who participates in the competition and tests positive for COVID-19 within 48 hours following the completion of the competition will be identified and the Head Athletic Trainer at the team member's institution will report that result(s) to the previous opponent to ensure that appropriate contact tracing may be done.

Appendix D – VSU Department of Athletics COVID-19 Resocialization Plan

In conjunction with NCAA and Commonwealth of Virginia resocialization guidelines, the Virginia State University Department of Athletics provides the following recommendations regarding the phases of resocialization. These implementation strategies are to enhance a safe return to athletic activity and connect Athletics with the broader institution. As guidelines and information continues to change, this document will be reviewed with revisions.

Phase 1

In accordance with the Commonwealth of Virginia, NCAA, and CDC guidelines and recommendations, gating criteria will be satisfied for a minimum of **14** days.

During this phase the VSU Athletics recommends the following:

- Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to include masks/gaiters, gloves, and face shields must be worn at all times
- Vulnerable (in need of special care, support, or protection due to preexisting health conditions) individuals should continue to stay at home
- **ALL** student-athletes, athletic staff and administrators will be tested using the *Abbott BinaxNOW Antigen Rapid Test. upon their return to campus
- Testing is recommended to be conducted **weekly** in conjunction with the University
- Student-athletes who test positive will be isolated per the University protocol and will be under primary care physician orders
- Student-athletes who may have been in contact with an infected individual will be quarantined for 14 days per the CDC
- Athletic staff and administrators who test positive or who may have been in contact with an infected individual will follow the University protocol
- Individuals should be encouraged to self-health evaluate (temperature check/symptoms check)
- No in-person meetings
- Teleworking and virtual meetings are encouraged
- All athletic facilities should remain closed

- No physical gatherings (building access limited to groups of 10 or less)
- Maximize social distancing (6 to 10 feet)
- Non-essential travel prohibited

In order to move into the next phase, no known evidence of community transmission has been reported within the athletic and university population.

** All phases subject to change per recommended guidelines and developing information regarding testing. **

Phase 2

In accordance with the Commonwealth of Virginia and CDC guidelines, if phase one has been implemented successfully, with no evidence of a rebound, and gating criteria have been satisfied for a minimum of **14** days since the implementation of phase one.

During this phase the Virginia State University Department of Athletics recommends the following:

**Abbott BinaxNOW Antigen Rapid Test - The BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 test is a lateral flow test that detects the presence of protein antigens from SARS-CoV-2 in individuals suspected of COVID-19.*

Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to include masks/gaiters, gloves, and face shields is mandatory inside all athletic facilities

Vulnerable individuals continue to stay at home

Symptomatic and high risk contact student-athletes, athletic staff and administrators will be tested using the *Abbott BinaxNOW Antigen Rapid Test.

- Testing is recommended to be conducted on **Monday, Wednesday and Friday** in conjunction with the University
- Student-athletes who test positive will be isolated per the University protocol and under the care of VSU Student Health Services
- Student-athletes who may have been in contact with an infected individual will be quarantined for 14 days per the CDC

- Athletic staff and administrators who test positive or who may have been in contact with an infected individual will follow the University protocol
- Individuals should be encouraged to self-health evaluate (temperature check/symptoms check)
- Teleworking and virtual meetings are encouraged
- Continue telework when possible
- All athletic facilities should remain closed, unless appropriate distancing and sanitation protocols are implemented (Sanitizing before, during, and after practice)
- Maximize social distancing (6 to 10 feet)
- Limiting groups to less than 50 or 30% of the occupancy is highly recommended
- Non-essential travel may resume (per University guidelines)
- NCAA playing and practice guidelines (CARA) must be followed
 - Physical distancing or mask usage during practice is recommended when appropriate
 - Only individual workouts are recommended
 - Limit shared equipment when possible
 - Adequate time should be allotted between sessions
 - Implement a weekly strength and conditioning protocol
 - Utilize practice and workout groups/cohorts of 6-10 student-athletes
- Encourage outdoor training as much as possible with social distancing regulations
- During practices, for those not actively participating, masks should be worn over the nose and mouth, this should include coaches, managers, medical personnel, and student-athletes.
- Single use cups or individually assigned water bottles should be utilized rather than communal bottles/hydration devices.
- Documentation of workouts ahead of time to Health Care Administrator/Athletic Trainer

** All phases subject to change per recommended guidelines and developing information regarding testing. **

Phase 3

In accordance with the Commonwealth of Virginia and CDC guidelines, if phase two has been implemented successfully, with no evidence of a rebound, and gating criteria have been satisfied for a minimum of **14** days since the implementation of phase two.

During these phases the Virginia State Athletic Department recommends the following: **Abbott BinaxNOW Antigen Rapid Test - The BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 test is a lateral flow test that detects the presence of protein antigens from SARS-CoV-2 in individuals suspected of COVID-19.*

- Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to include masks/gaiters, gloves, and face shields is mandatory inside all athletic facilities
- Vulnerable individuals may resume public interactions
- **Symptomatic and high risk contact** student-athletes, athletic staff and administrators will be tested using the *Abbott BinaxNOW Antigen Rapid Test.
- Testing is recommended to be conducted **once per week or 48 to 72 hours prior to competition and 48 hours after competition.**
- Student-athletes who test positive will be isolated per the University protocol and under the care of VSU Student Health Services
- Student-athletes who may have been in contact with an infected individual will be quarantined for 14 days per the CDC
- Athletic staff and administrators who test positive or who may have been in contact with an infected individual will follow the University protocol
- Individuals should be encouraged to self-health evaluate (temperature check/symptoms check)
- Resume unrestricted staffing (per University guidelines)
- Large venues operate with enforced physical distancing and appropriate sanitation protocols implemented (Sanitizing before, during, and after athletic activities)

- Limiting groups to less than 250 or 75% of the occupancy is highly recommended
- Non-essential travel resumes
- NCAA playing and practice guidelines (CARA) must be followed
 - Physical distancing or mask usage during practice and competition is recommended when appropriate
 - Full team workouts and practices may resume
 - Limit shared equipment when possible
 - Adequate time should be allotted between sessions
- During practices there should be no non-essential personnel present.
- During practices, for those not actively participating, masks should be worn over the nose and mouth, this should include coaches, managers, medical personnel, and student-athletes.
- Single use cups or individually assigned water bottles should be utilized rather than communal bottles/hydration devices.
- Implement a weekly strength and conditioning protocol
- Documentation of workouts ahead of time to Health Care Administrator/Athletic Trainer

** All phases subject to change per recommended guidelines and developing information regarding testing. **

General Recommendations (All Phases)

- All medical staff personnel, coaches/departmental staff, as well as strength & conditioning **must have the appropriate PPE** (masks/gaiters, gloves, and face shields) on hand before any allowable activity
- Focus should be on PPE
- Safe and efficient screening and testing sites for symptomatic individuals and trace contacts
- Isolation and quarantine for newly infected or for high risk exposures

All temperature checks of the following individuals will be conducted by a certified athletic trainer:

- Athletic Staff members
- Student-athletes

**Abbott BinaxNOW Antigen Rapid Test - The BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 test is a lateral flow test that detects the presence of protein antigens from SARS-CoV-2 in individuals suspected of COVID-19.*

- Facility staff personnel
- Interns/ Student Workers/ Graduate Students
- Athletic Volunteers
- Bus drivers (prior to transporting student-athletes)
- Daily student-athlete screening, to include temperature checks, should be incorporated into the prevention process.
 - For temperatures elevated above 100.3 – recheck with a different thermometer
 - If still elevated, temporarily move to a cool area and recheck temperature in 10 minutes.
- Student-athletes, coaches and staff will be required to submit a daily self-health evaluation screening (via Sportsware)
- Social distancing and small group activities are recommended when possible.
- Individuals with signs and symptoms will not be allowed to enter the facility
- Athletics will follow the University's isolation and quarantine plan in the event of a positive test in coordination with University protocols.
- Athletics will be prepared to share information regarding the number of positive tests with the CIAA conference office within the guidelines of HIPAA regulations.
- Athletics will work closely with the University counseling center to monitor the mental health and wellness of athletic staff and student-athletes.

Exposure Risk

Tier 1: This is the highest exposure tier and consists of individuals for whom physical distancing and face coverings are not possible or effective during athletic training or competition.

Examples of relevant individuals include student-athletes, coaches, athletic trainers and physical therapists, medical staff, equipment staff and officials.

Tier 2: This is a moderate exposure tier and consists of individuals who come into close contact with Tier 1 individuals but can reasonably maintain physical distance and use face coverings.

Examples of relevant individuals include certain team staff (e.g., executives) and certain operational staff (e.g., security, event staff and league staff).

Tier 3: This is the lowest exposure tier and includes individuals who provide event services but do not come into close contact with Tier 1 individuals (and should this occur, would be reclassified into Tier 2). Examples of relevant individuals include certain operational staff (e.g., housekeeping, catering, sanitation and transportation) and media/broadcast.

Transmission risk by sport (VSU):

Low transmission risk: bowling, golf, tennis, track and field.

Intermediate transmission risk: baseball, cross country, and softball

High transmission risk: basketball, football, volleyball, and cheerleading

** All phases subject to change per recommended guidelines and developing information regarding testing. **

The Department of Athletics will coordinate with the Office of Student Health Services to review the implementation of this document. **Abbott BinaxNOW Antigen Rapid Test - The BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 test is a lateral flow test that detects the presence of protein antigens from SARS-CoV-2 in individuals suspected of COVID-19.*

This VSU Athletics Resocialization Plans has been reviewed and approved by the following:

Head Athletic Trainer

Print Signature Date

Director of Student Health Services

Print Signature Date

Health Care Administrator

Print Signature Date

Associate VP for Intercollegiate Athletics

Print Signature Date