Spring 2021 COVID-19 Plan

Presented to the Board of Trustees, December 9, 2020
By Edward Seidel, President
University of Wyoming
Fall 2020 and Lessons Learned
Fall 2020 Summary

• Detailed plan developed over late spring; modified over summer
  • Set up multiple working groups
  • Established Project Management Office (PMO)
  • Created and implemented a detailed, comprehensive testing plan, including pre-return testing
  • Adopted rigorous triggers for action

• Key changes as conditions developed
  • Shifted to a Phase-in approach over initial weeks
  • Shifted from automatic triggers to broader set of indicators
  • Increased staffing to handle load, including an expanded COVID Hub
  • Encouraged students to conclude in-person experiences one week earlier than planned

• Data to date (Dec 8, 2020)
  • Total positive cases = 1,789
  • Total tests = 88,114 (13,149 pre-return, 62,318 Vault, 419 external, 12,228 Surveillance)
Lessons Learned

- Our slow start up to the semester was very important
- With precautions in place, classrooms & other formal on-campus spaces aren't important vectors of viral spread.
- Off-campus social gatherings are the top drivers of coronavirus.
- Entry and surveillance testing are critical.
- Compliance needs to improve.
- Need best data possible, rapidly
- With sufficient staffing, we can manage, trace, & take targeted interventions.
- The University must be nimble, but also ensure stability for students and employees.
- Collaboration with the Wyoming Department of Health, local officials, numerous experts, peer universities is critical.
- Frequent and targeted communications are important.
- Supporting students and employee wellness and well-being is vital.
- Our employees are willing to go the extra mile to support the University.
To Ed: Can't understand why holding a Coke and standing around awkwardly looking at one's shoes would spread COVID! What's the big deal?

Best, Nigel

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**UNIVERSITY COVID MODEL**

Apparently some university reopened based on a COVID model developed by two physicists.

Uh-oh.

But even their worst-case model underestimated the number of student parties and they had to shut down.

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Can't understand why someone with a physics degree would be bad at judging how often college students get invited to parties.

Excuse me, I was invited to multiple parties, and attended both of them!

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To Ed Sesel: Modelling parties could be harder than collapse of black holes!

Sergey Maslov (illegible)
Response to Lessons
Key Points

• Our spring plan should be as definite as possible.
• An increased focus on wellness and well-being is needed.
• More rapid testing and CLIA certification will allow better data and decisions.
• We will continue to invest in a strong monitoring program.
• There will be changes to project management.
  • Fewer meetings, revamped structure, cabinet more involved
  • Tami will move back to Academic Affairs (but still part of EEPG)!
  • Our partners at Deloitte were instrumental in helping us create a foundation upon which our internal team will be able to manage in the spring.
Highlights of Spring 2021 Plan
Spring 2021 Highlights

**Academic Calendar**
- Limited Contact Period (Jan 14 – Jan 31)
- Semester begins with 2 days of remote instruction (Jan 21-22)
- F2F classes & programming begin (Jan 25 – Mar 30)
- Spring Break (Mar 31-Apr 4)
- Remote instruction/finals & student programming (Apr 5-May 14)

**Student Success & Graduation**
- Commitment to seniors & graduate students
- Array of instructional delivery modes to choose from – giving students the ability to develop a schedule that best fits their needs during the pandemic
- Increase in academic support, including tools for online studying & collaboration
- Increased focus on student engagement, including services through the Center for Student Involvement & Leadership (CSIL)

**Employee & Student Wellness**
- Services & programs for employees
  - Employee Assistance Program
  - Cigna resources for emotional/physical health
  - Wyoming on Wellness
  - Wyoming Health Fairs
  - Linkedin Learning
  - COVID-19 Resources page
- Support for student wellness
  - Care & support for students in isolation & quarantine
  - University Counseling Center
  - UW Student Health Services
  - UW Food Share Pantry
  - Multicultural Affairs
  - Wellness Coordinators
Spring 2021 Highlights

**Comprehensive Testing**

- University-based surveillance and confirmatory testing will be more efficient & allow for quicker contact tracing.
- Students will continue to test 2X a week. Graduate students & employees will test 1X a week.
- Processes in place for testing accommodations and exemptions.
- A testing resources web page provides numerous details and instructions.

**Increased focus on Compliance**

- The University will run weekly compliance reports for students and employees.
- The COVID Pass will be used to signal testing compliance.
- The University will use various resources available, including conduct procedures and interventions, to improve compliance.

**Community Engagement**

- The University will continue to consult with and communicate with our state and community leaders.
- The University will collaborate with our state and community partners to address health & safety rules and guidelines, including where required practices are not followed.
- The University will continue to provide support to our state and community.
Key Takeaways
Summary

• We learned a lot about managing the effects of the pandemic
  • But there is more to learn.
• With many logistics and testing in place, the University can focus more on the wellness and well-being of our students and employees
• A careful start to the semester is essential.
• A successful spring semester depends on everyone doing their part.
• Well planned means be ready...for anything...
• Assumptions
  • Situation remains manageable
  • Vaccine not impacting operations until late spring or beyond