

Reactivating Higher Education Post COVID-19

Unlike anything we have ever seen before in our lifetime, our buildings, workplaces, and our behaviors will be impacted by the aftermath of COVID-19.



What can we be doing now to prepare our campus?

Planning for the safe return of students, faculty, staff, and visitors to the campus is causing institutions to immediately re-focus on preparedness efforts as priority. Administrative leadership will heavily rely on their facilities, environmental health, and safety staff for complete assurance that plans are in place so that campus users can safely return.

Campus re-activation planning starts with strategic development of a preparedness strategy, identification and planning for new behavioral protocols, as well as training for students, faculty, staff, and physical campus and facility changes to ensure a safe environment. Consider the totality of creating a safe campus experience:



1 PREPAREDNESS & TRAINING

How will our facilities, environmental health and safety teams mobilize to urgently address necessary changes? Who will help action on viable preparedness strategies? What new behaviors will we ask of our people to keep everyone safe? What change management and training will be necessary to ensure new norms are adopted?



2 LEARNING & HOUSING ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY & DESIGN

How will learning and housing density change on each floor, each building, and throughout the campus facilities? How will new campus strategies and occupancy planning scenarios help manage to safe occupancy levels? What design changes must occur now, but be planned for future flexibility? What must change in shared spaces? How will remote learning impact building design?



3 CAMPUS SOCIAL SPACES

How will social distancing and new sanitization guidelines impact campus social spaces and design standards? Will campus pedestrian sidewalks need to be widened to increase social distancing? Will fitness centers, dining halls, and campus furnishings be modified with bacteria resistant surface materials?



4 BUILDING MANAGEMENT

What must be done to our elevators, stairs, and entry doors to help all safely distance themselves while arriving and departing our facility? How will staggered class starts help with density monitoring? How will visitor protocols be impacted?



5 BUILDING SYSTEMS

What modifications can be made to existing HVAC and building systems to improve indoor air quality? How can touchless features aid in reducing virus spread?