



## UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA DECISION-MAKING FRAMEWORK FOR DETERMINING STATES OF CAMPUS OPERATIONS DURING COVID-19

### Campus Density Levels, Approach and Resourcing

The University of Central Oklahoma President's Cabinet and the COVID-19 On-Call Task Force will use a data-informed approach to inform decision-making during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This includes reviewing a continuum of general states of campus operations coupled with specific possible interventions, all informed by relevant circumstances and data updated as frequently as daily.

We learn more about this virus every day. To address the risks identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we believe actions taken should be data-informed and based on context specific to each instance, rather than predetermined threshold levels that do not specifically address the existing or evolving conditions. On-campus operations will follow one of the outlined levels below, with the potential to shift as we see trends in specific populations or locations. Most of our decisions will relate to specific interventions for targeted needs. For example, as we see trends in specific populations or locations, we intend to focus attention on those specific populations or locations. These guidelines are supported by previously published university protocols for Covid-19 available at <http://uco.edu/coronavirus> and are intended to be consistent with published guidance from state and federal public health authorities

### General States of Campus Operations

This framework creates a continuum for levels of campus operation based on a varying status of population density and presumes the continuation of other risk-mitigation strategies and efforts including face mask requirements and personal hygiene practices. Campus transmission mitigation requirements are intended to be consistent with federal, state, and local mandates as well as published guidance from state and federal public health authorities and may be more stringent at times. The five levels range from Level 1 (i.e., open campus) to Level 5 (i.e., closed campus). We have begun the fall semester at Level 2.

- **Level 1: Campus Open with High Density**

Unrestricted operating procedures.

- **Level 2: Campus Open with Moderate Density**

Managed density and culture of mitigation for exposure; face masks required when around others, indoors or outdoors regardless of distance.

- **Level 3: Campus Open with Low Density**

Increased transmission mitigation requirements may be elevated as compared to Oklahoma County requirements, including increased physical distancing and intensified environmental cleaning.

• **Level 4: Campus Open to Essential Personnel and Individuals Only**

Increased transmission mitigation requirements may be elevated as compared to Oklahoma County requirements. Most classes temporarily moved to virtual synchronous delivery; limited preauthorized class sections permitted in-person; occupancy reduced and some buildings closed or with limited access; most services delivered virtually.

• **Level 5: Campus Closed**

Increased transmission mitigation requirements may be elevated as compared to Oklahoma County requirements. All classes moved to virtual synchronous delivery; all buildings closed; all services delivered virtually.

## **Specific Possible Interventions**

- Advanced or increased physical distancing, enhanced environmental cleaning
- Temporary or long-term shift of in-person classes to virtual synchronous delivery
- On-campus housing/residence-hall-specific housing unit and classroom occupancy reductions or closures
- Modified in-person class attendance for certain populations (e.g., individuals physically present in an identified cluster/outbreak, medically vulnerable populations, higher risk populations)
- Temporary on-campus closure
- Suspension of group events and/or gatherings

## **Relevant Circumstances and Data**

A combination of indicators from campus, county, state, federal and clinical/hospital domains will inform dashboards and models used by the university to modify in-person campus activities consistent with such factors.

### **Initial Set of Recommended Considerations and Indicators:**

#### **Campus and Community Considerations**

- Significant, applicable action by the Governor, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Oklahoma City-County Health officials, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents, or other public official
- Escalation or relaxation of the Oklahoma County COVID-19 Reopening Plan
- Trends among institutions of higher education (national, regional, state and/or Oklahoma City Metro area)
- Upward trajectory of documented cases or percentage of positive tests on campus and in the community (with flat or increasing volume of tests) for 14 days
- Cluster of positives on and off-campus
- Employee absenteeism
- Hospitals unable to treat all patients without crisis care
- Degradation of testing capacity in community including screening and contact tracing for symptomatic individuals
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) shortages on campus
- Campus community member death

## Indicators of Transmission Mitigation

These data will be reviewed daily by the university's COVID-19 Response Team.

- Campus Domain
  - Students, faculty and staff testing positive, including the campus 7-day moving average compared to the 7-day moving average of persons age 18 and older in Oklahoma County.
  - Number of quarantined students/faculty/staff
  - Turnaround time for test results is more than 48 hours for members of our community sent for testing
  - Campus community member death
- County Domain
  - Number of Oklahoma County residents testing positive for COVID (daily and 7-day moving average) (Source: Oklahoma City-County Health Department)
  - Disease Spread: Rate of COVID-19 cases over a 14-day period.
- Medical Community Domain
  - Non-ICU admissions from UCO community
  - ICU admissions
  - Ventilator utilization

## Governance for Decision-Making

The COVID-19 On-Call Task Force will provide timely recommendations – guided by evidence-based science and expert opinions – to inform the UCO President's Cabinet decisions regarding on-campus activities and potential status changes related to closure, partial closure, and/or reduction of services. These recommendations will be revised as our understanding of COVID-19 and situational awareness changes. This guidance may be used on- and off-campus as applicable, and we encourage university partners, affiliated organizations and off-campus student housing to consider these as well.

*Note: Portions of this document are based on the University of Kansas Decision-Making Framework for Changes to the State of Campus Operations, published Aug. 21, 2020.*