Holiday Safety for Colleges and Universities

Michigan.gov/Coronavirus

COVID-19 on campus

Colleges and universities are a major source of COVID-19 infections, with 33 COVID-19 outbreaks documented at present. Several of these outbreaks have involved more than 1,000 cases, with a cumulative total of more than 5,790 university-affiliated individuals who have become ill with COVID-19.

Students traveling across Michigan or to other states to visit friends and family over the holidays risk bringing COVID-19 home with them, fueling outbreaks within their households and communities, and reintroducing COVID-19 to campuses when they return.

Universities and their students should undertake several mitigation measures to make travel and gatherings during the holidays safer. In addition, given the significant risks posed by holiday gatherings and travel in November and December, universities should consider remaining fully remote between Thanksgiving and the New Year. Students should consider participating remotely in all classes if that option is offered.

Recommended actions for students returning home for the holidays:

- For the two weeks before leaving campus, self-quarantine away from others (i.e., leave only for class, work, to get food, and medical appointments) and always wear a mask while around others
- For the two weeks after departing campus:
  - Wear masks at all times around anyone you weren't living with on campus (even around family).
  - Where possible, stay 6 feet apart from everyone, including family, particularly if anyone must remove their mask (such as during meals).
  - Where possible, avoid physical contact with others (for example, avoid hugging elderly relatives or others in high risk groups).
  - Do not attend gatherings outside the home (for example, do not meet up with high school friends in town).
  - Monitor for symptoms twice a day.
    - Check your temperature.
    - Review a symptom checklist.

For more information, visit **Michigan.gov/Coronavirus.**

- - - Enter your results in a symptom tracker.[1]
    - o Test if you become symptomatic at any time, and if possible once at five to 10 days after departing campus.
  - For students who leave and return multiple times (i.e., go home for Thanksgiving, then go back to school for two to three weeks, then go home for Christmas), this guidance applies each time they leave or return.
  - Students should consider remaining remote if they cannot be confident in their ability to follow these guidelines.

Universities should share this information with students' families, and require students to read and sign a copy of this as an "exit pledge."

Recommended practices for universities to support a safe return to campus:

- For the two weeks after students, staff, or other members of the community return to campus:
  - o Test people on arrival (within 24 hours of return) and on an ongoing basis for the two weeks after arrival (at least weekly).
  - o Tell people to wear masks at all times in public spaces, and as much as possible in shared houses or suites with roommates.
  - o Do not permit social gatherings. Conduct higher levels of spot checks to enforce this rule.
  - o Require people to monitor for symptoms twice a day.
    - Check temperatures.
    - Review a symptom checklist.
    - Require entry of results in a symptom tracker, and monitor submissions for compliance.
- Where possible, offer students single rooms.
- Require people to cooperate with public health measures, including all items in this plan, as part of the university code of conduct.
- Consider remaining remote if the university cannot be confident in its ability to follow these guidelines.

For the latest information on Michigan's response to COVID-19, please visit
Michigan.gov/Coronavirus. You may also call the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136 or email COVID-19@michigan.gov.

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[1] Universities are recommended to monitor students' submissions for compliance