



Key Considerations to Guide Decisions on Campus Operations

While many measures have been put into place to safeguard the St. Thomas community, we expect to have cases of COVID-19 on campus this fall and will be closely monitoring our ability to manage the virus. To help guide our decisions about when changes in operations may be necessary, we will use a combination of factors to measure both the prevalence of COVID-19 and our overall ability to safely manage it and respond. The decision to change operations will be made by the President, after receiving recommendations from appropriate campus groups, including UART, the Dean’s Council, the Scenario Planning Committee and other appropriate individuals and groups. Changes to operations may include, but are not limited to, changes to dining hall or residence hall operations, changes to service levels or building hours, moving additional classes online and closure of some residence hall(s). The following metrics and considerations, along with consultation with the Minnesota Department of Health, will help us make decisions about when it might be necessary to “turn down our dial.”

Location	Metric	Considerations
	Number of Infections on Campus	
On Campus	After the expected initial spike in reported cases at the beginning of the semester, are the number of reports of confirmed infections increasing rapidly? (case growth)	Is our campus case growth increasing rapidly over a 14-day period compared to local/state averages?
On Campus	After the expected initial spike in reported cases at the beginning of the semester, are we seeing a sudden significant increase in positive tests administered at the Center for Well-Being? (positivity rate)	Is our positivity rate increasing rapidly over a 14-day period compared to local/state averages?
On Campus	Is MDH reporting more cases to us that are connected to campus?	Are MDH-reported cases increasing rapidly over a 14-day period?



Location	Metric	Considerations
	Linked Cases	
On Campus	Do we see increasing evidence of community spread (infections that are spread from person to person within our community)?	Through contact tracing, are we able to determine linked cases and do we have the capacity to isolate and quarantine in response?
On Campus	Has the Department of Health contacted us and determined that we have significant community spread?	Does MDH consider us Low Risk, Medium Risk, High Risk, Uncontained (per MDH guidance)
	Level of Severity	
On Campus	What is the level of severity of the cases we are seeing on campus?	Are infected community members mostly experiencing mild symptoms or are they needing emergency room visits, hospitalizations, etc.?
	What impact are cases on campus having on the broader community and vulnerable populations?	Are our cases creating a strain on the health care system outside of campus? Are cases on campus putting our most vulnerable community members at risk?
	Number of Infections in our Broader Communities	
In the region	Is the number of infections in Ramsey and Hennepin counties increasing or decreasing?	Increasing over a 14-day period
	State Guidance	
State	Has the Minnesota Department of Health suggested higher ed power down?	Does state guidance for higher ed recommend powering down?
State	Has the Governor turned the reopening dial back down?	Does state guidance for all entities recommend powering down?



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	Internal Campus Containment Metrics	
On Campus	Are our isolation and quarantine facilities near capacity?	In consultation with MDH, does CWB determine that we have adequate capacity?
On Campus	Are resident students who need isolation and quarantine returning home or staying on campus?	In consultation with MDH, does CWB determine that we have adequate capacity?
On Campus	Are our internal testing supplies adequate?	Are we meeting the demand for symptomatic tests?
On Campus	Are tests being processed in a timely manner?	Does the timing of test results allow us to do contract tracing and move people into isolation and quarantine in a timely manner?
On Campus	Is our contract tracing process able to keep up with communicating with community members in a timely manner?	Are exposed community members being notified in a timely manner?
On Campus	Is there sufficient PPE capacity?	In consultation with MDH, does CWB determine that we have adequate capacity?
On Campus	Are students, staff and faculty adhering to the Preparedness Plan and the Common Good Commitment?	Have HR, Student Affairs and Academic Affairs reported a significant lack of desire to comply?
On Campus	Are cases and faculty and staff absences materially impacting essential operations?	Are faculty and staff absences due to positive cases or quarantine impacting essential operations? What is the campus-wide impact?

Based on [OpenSmartEDU](#) and MDH guidance