

Return to Campus Plan

LAMAR STATE COLLEGE ORANGE – MAY 2020



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Introduction

It's hard to believe that nine weeks ago, we completely transitioned the way we teach, learn, and work here at our beautiful campus on the Sabine. I am incredibly appreciative and impressed at how everyone within the Gator Family has adapted during these uncertain times. Thank you for your patience, flexibility, creativity, and especially, your resilience as we face these challenges together.

As we complete the spring semester this week and the economy begins to re-start, we must prepare for yet another stage of transition. With the decision to move our Summer I and II sessions to an online/hybrid format, we begin to look at a plan to bring our campus back to full operation and prepare for our Fall semester.

While we cannot eliminate all risks, we intend to be diligent in our mitigation strategies. In the weeks and months ahead, we will work diligently to refine our preparations to create a safe, productive educational environment for our Gator family.

In accordance with the Governor's Report to Open Texas, CDC Guidelines, and THECB recommendation, Lamar State College Orange has created the following plan to reopen our campus while working to ensure the safety and health of our Gator Community. As we roll out each phase of this plan, every member of our Gator family is called to act responsibly, to continue following all health precautions and sanitizing guidelines, and to continue supporting and caring for each other. The plan is contingent upon the following:

- Guidance from our Federal, State, and Local government and public health officials;
- A downward trend of documented cases of COVID-19 or a downward trend of positive tests as a percentage of total tests in our county and surrounding areas;
- Hospitals can treat all patients without crisis care; and
- A robust testing program is in place for at-risk healthcare workers, including emerging antibody testing.

Phase in Strategy

Because the safety and health of our faculty, staff, and students is our first priority, we will strategically phase our return, mindful that if the virus reemerges, efforts to reopen our campus may be slowed or halted for a time until the situation improves. Please keep in mind the reality we are all navigating lacks predictable benchmarks, and the comprehensive understanding we all desire. In short, we will need to do the best we can, informed by government and health officials, and recommended best practices as we move forward.

While we cannot eliminate all risks, we will do everything we can to mitigate them, including:

- Adhering to social distancing protocols;
- Encouraging enhanced personal hygiene practices, including regular handwashing;
- Making hand sanitizer available, especially in areas where soap and water for handwashing are not readily available;
- Requiring facemasks/cloth face coverings or other protective equipment items to be worn when social distancing protocols are not possible;
- Requiring employees, student, and visitors to participate in health screening, including temperature checks when entering buildings;
- Maintaining groups of 10 or less;
- Sanitizing and disinfecting common and high-traffic areas;
- Encouraging self-screening and monitoring in accordance with the [*Governor's Report to Open Texas Checklist for All Individuals*](#);
- Prohibiting all College-related business travel until after August 31; and
- Preventing symptomatic people from physically returning to work until guidelines issued by the [*Governor's Report to Open Texas Checklist for All Employers*](#) is met.

No doubt, there will be inconveniences. We hope they are short-lived, but, in the interim, at least, we will be able to return to our campus, colleagues, friends, and eventually face-to-face learning.

We will take extra precautions to protect the most vulnerable among us, especially those with conditions we know heighten the risks of the most severe COVID-19 cases such as, chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma, series heart conditions, chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, liver disease, diabetes, obesity, and those whose immune system is compromised, such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy.

Phase in Plan

Below is an outline of our current approach to a phased reopening. Please keep in mind the guidance and knowledge are changing frequently, which may necessitate altering plans. Additionally, this should not be considered an exhaustive list of considerations, as inevitably items were unintendedly omitted, and/or special circumstances and considerations may require alteration.

Phase I - May 11 to May 29

Continue Current State of Operations / Return limited number of technical hands-on classes to complete spring 2020 learning experiences

- Employees **continue** to engage in alternative work configurations (i.e., telecommuting, flexible work options, rotations, etc.). Essential employees not working remotely continue to report to campus.
- Vulnerable individuals (as described by the CDC) should continue to shelter in place and work remotely where feasible;
- Faculty will teach from a remote location unless they are teaching one of the technical, hands-on classes that have been approved to meet on campus.
- A specific number of technical, hands-on classes returned to campus on Monday, May 11. This is voluntary – students who are at high risk, or do not feel comfortable returning to class should not do so.
- Gatherings of 10 or more people should be avoided;
- Virtual meetings will be encouraged whenever possible and feasible;
- Continue current campus hours of 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monday – Thursday, closed on Friday; Campus will remain closed to outside persons (only faculty, staff, students (current or future), or approved contractors permitted);
- Building closures/restrictions remain in effect for the following buildings: Welding Building, Wilson Building, Industrial Technology Building, Stark Nursing Classroom Building, Shahan Events Center, and Workforce Education Building
- Stringent cleaning practices are in place; and
- Divisions develop plans to best accommodate the return to work of their remaining employees;

Advancement to Phase II is dependent on guidelines from federal, state, and local government and health officials with additional emphasis on number of cases in our local and campus community.

Phase II – June 1 to July 2 (Assuming Phase I has been implemented successfully)
Partial On-Campus Operations Resume

- Maintain current campus hours of Monday thru Thursday, 8:00am – 2:00pm, closed on Friday; Campus will remain closed to outside persons (only faculty, staff, students (current or future) or approved contractors permitted).
- Vulnerable individuals should continue to shelter in place, and work remotely where feasible, or be aware that by returning to work or other environments where distancing is not practical, they could carry the virus back home and appropriate isolating precautions should be taken;
- Staff employees not approved for an alternative work option (i.e. telecommuting, flexible work options, rotations, etc.) or that cannot complete 40 hours of work in an alternative work option, will start physically reporting to their assigned place of work. Your immediate supervisor will provide further guidance on work schedules.
- Faculty will teach from a remote location unless they are teaching one of the technical, hands-on classes that have been approved to meet on campus.
- A limited number of technical, hands-on courses, with fewer than 10 people (faculty and students), will be allowed to meet on campus. Classes will be scheduled between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. Faculty and students will be required to wear a face covering (when social distancing cannot be practiced), practice social distancing, and stringent hand washing guidelines;
- Workforce non-credit classes with fewer than 10 people (faculty and students) will be allowed to meet on campus between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. Faculty and students will be required to wear a face covering (when social distancing cannot be practiced), practice social distancing, and stringent hand washing guidelines;
- Gatherings of 10 or more people should be avoided;
- Virtual meetings will be encouraged whenever possible and feasible;
- Buildings and offices will be open, but will have restricted access based on needs and occupancy rate;
- Stringent cleaning practices will remain in place;
- Elevators will be limited to one or two individuals (depending on size of elevator). Face coverings should be worn in elevators. For individuals not wishing to ride an elevator, all stairwells will be available for use; including the north emergency exit in the Ron Lewis Library building;

- College-related business travel is prohibited until after August 31; and
- Gyms and common areas where students and staff are likely to congregate and interact should remain closed unless strict distancing and sanitization protocols can be implemented;

Advancement to Phase III is dependent on guidelines from federal, state, and local government and health officials with additional emphasis on number of cases in our local and campus community.

Phase III – July 6 and beyond (Assuming Phase II has been implemented successfully)
Campus Operations Return to “Normal” Operations

- Campus hours of 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday will resume;
- All staff employees, including those previously working remotely, will physically report to their place of work;
- All buildings on campus will be open to the public;
- Stringent cleaning practices will remain in place;
- College-related business travel is prohibited until after August 31; and
- Gatherings of more than 10 people should be avoided unless precautionary measures of physical distancing and sanitization are in place.

With the decision to move our Summer I and II sessions to an online/hybrid format, it allows us to implement our Return to Campus Plan with the intent to bring our campus back to full operation for our Fall Semester. The safety and health of our Gator community will continue to be our priority.

COVID-19 Spread

During the implementation of the return-to-operations plan, we will diligently monitor the COVID-19 situation. Until COVID-19 can be managed through widely available treatment – prevention and/or vaccination - this strategic, yet adaptable, phased approach will be implemented but monitored, and adjustments made to protect the safety and health of the Gator community.

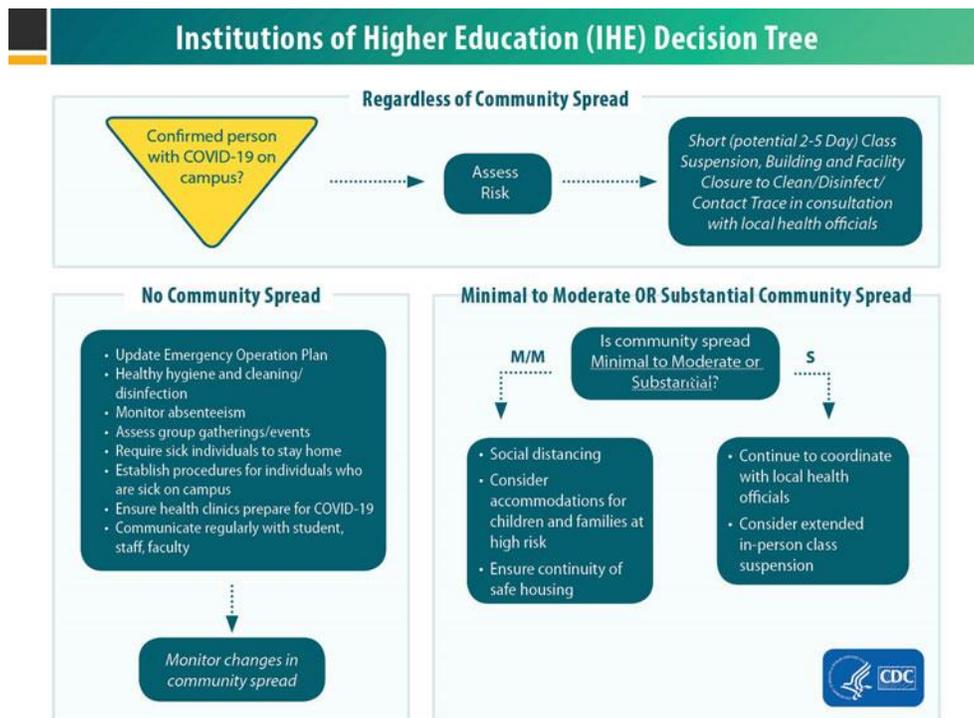
LSCO will take immediate actions recommended by the CDC Guidelines if an on campus COVID-19 infection is reported. A complete investigation will take place and local public health officials will be notified.

Minimal to Moderate Spread

- Work with local public health offices to determine cancellation of classes and closure of buildings (short-term closure, 2-5 days);
- Communicate with students, faculty, and staff potential class cancellation and building closures;
- Clean and disinfect thoroughly;
- Maintain confidentiality of infected or exposed person(s) as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act.

Substantial Spread

- Work with local public health offices to determine cancellation of classes, closure of buildings, and event/activity cancellations (long-term closure, longer than two weeks);
- Communicate with students, faculty, and staff the suspension of in-person classes and implementation of classes to a flexible learning environment;
- Clean and disinfect thoroughly;
- Maintain confidentiality of infected or exposed person(s) as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act.



Questions

Many of you will have questions, concerns, and input about the return to campus. Please stay connected by checking your campus email for the most up to date information and visit the frequently asked questions located on our COVID-19 webpage at <http://www.lSCO.edu/covid-19/covid-19-fags.asp>. Questions may also be submitted through the “[Questions ?](#)” form located on the COVID-19 page and will be forwarded to the appropriate department or person to respond.

I remain confident and optimistic about LSCO’s future as I have watched you respond to challenges, roadblocks, and obstacles that have been thrown our way throughout this COVID-19 pandemic. I am grateful to stand beside each of you and continue to support each other and our students. We truly are transforming lives and providing hope and opportunity at LSCO.

Your humble servant,

Tom