

COVID-19 Operational Response and Recovery Plan

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Overview

Western Michigan University, with a total population of approximately 24,000, has the size and complexity of a small city. This plan is based on a targeted response approach, rather than contemplating the entire University as all in-person or all virtual. The levels of service in instruction, research, extracurriculars and administration deemed to be in-person and virtual are determined by the relevant division leader in consultation with the President, President's Cabinet and division stakeholders as appropriate and may vary between divisions.

The plan was developed by the Contingency Planning Task Force and approved by the President's Cabinet. It is informed by the [MI Safe Schools: Michigan's 2020- 21 Return to School Roadmap](#).



Change in Phases

WMU is actively and continuously monitoring six indicators along with other internal and external COVID-19 factors to determine the appropriate phase and whether any change is needed. A change in two or more indicators would typically cause a move from one phase to another, though a sudden or severe change in a single indicator could result in a safety level change.

Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, COVID-19 protocols are continuously reviewed by the University's COVID-19 Response Coordination Team and the President's Cabinet. The University works closely the Kalamazoo County Department of Health & Community Services and closely monitors guidance from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services as it monitors COVID-19 in Kalamazoo County and surrounding areas. The guidance on this chart will be updated to reflect the latest CDC, MDHHS and Kalamazoo County public health guidelines.

COVID-19 Operational Response and Recovery Plan	Phase 0 All operations functioning normally	Phase 1 Most operations functioning normally with some exceptions	Phase 2 Course modalities and unit operations support social distancing, focused cleaning and other precautions	Phase 3 A mix of course modalities and unit operations that enhance social distancing, focused cleaning and other precautions	Phase 4 Most course modalities are virtual, most units operating remotely, in-person service operations suspended	Phase 5 All course modalities virtual, all units operating remotely, most in-person service operations suspended
Community Spread	COVID-19 is no longer a public health concern due to the introduction of a vaccine or therapeutic.	COVID-19 is quickly contained, continuing reduction in cases.	State and local transmission data indicate low levels of community spread.	State/local data indicate moderate levels of community spread.	State/local data indicate large-scale community spread.	State /local data indicate severe community spread. Government-ordered shutdown.
COVID-19 on Campus		Substantial, sustained decrease in new cases in WMU community.	New cases decreasing in WMU community.	New cases plateaued in WMU community.	Sustained increase in new cases in WMU community.	Substantial increase in new cases in WMU community.
Hospital Admissions		Hospital admissions low.	Hospital admissions moderately low.	Hospital admissions moderate.	Hospital admissions high.	Hospital overwhelmed, cannot facilitate new admissions.
Contact Tracing		Ample resources to facilitate contact tracing.	Adequate resources to facilitate contact tracing.	Moderate resources to facilitate contact tracing.	Low resources to facilitate contact tracing.	Unable to facilitate contact tracing.
On-campus quarantine and isolation space		More than 80% capacity available.	More than 50% capacity available.	More than one-week capacity available for new cases.	Less than one-week capacity available for new cases.	Unavailable.
COVID-19 Testing		Ample resources for suspected cases and non-symptomatic persons.	Ample resources for suspected cases and non-symptomatic persons.	Ample resources for suspected cases and reduced capacity for non-symptomatic persons.	Low testing resources for suspected cases and no capacity for non-symptomatic persons. May require external testing.	Unable to perform testing internally or externally.
PPE Available		Widely available.	Largely available.	Moderately available.	In short supply.	Not available.

Members of the Contingency Planning Task Force



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*The University works with the Kalamazoo County Health Department and references the [Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists](#) for the definition of an outbreak.

**Western Michigan University acknowledges and appreciates the helpful resources at [South Dakota State University](#).