

FISHER COLLEGE COVID-19 HIGHER EDUCATION CONTROL PLAN



Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Social Distancing	3
Visitors on Campus	
Personal Protective Equipment Requirements	
Hygiene Protocols	4
Handwashing and Sanitizing	
Regular Sanitization High Touch Areas and Classrooms	
General Operations	5
Procedures/Guidelines for Community Members with Symptoms of COVID-19	
Faculty and Staff at Higher Risk Unable to Work Onsite	
Supporting Students Unable to Return to In-Person Learning	
Gatherings on Campus	
Campus Amenities and Servicers Shall Adhere to All Sector-Specific Safety Protocols	
Cleaning and Disinfecting	6
Communication and Support	6
Detection and Response	7

Introduction

Fisher College plans to reopen in the Spring 2021 semester using a model referred to as Fisher Flex. Fisher Flex provides a variety of course delivery models to support campus de-densification and social distancing, while providing students with the educational experience they seek. In this model approximately 50% of all classes are taught online, most with a live synchronous session each week. The remaining classes have a limited campus-based component in classrooms with reduced capacity. Additionally, residence hall occupancy has been reduced to meet social distancing guidelines. This coupled with testing, tracking and cleaning protocols have been established with community safety as the top priority.

The College is committed to following current city, state, and federal guidance and procedures to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19.

The College plans to welcome approximately 600 full time undergraduates and graduate students to campus in Spring 2021. Of these, approximately 210 will be living in campus housing and an additional 81 will be housed at an off campus supplemental facility at the Loews Hotel at 154 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Of the resident population 124 students on the Boston campus will be coming from out of state, with approximately 70 of those from the non-exempt locations. At the supplemental facility, approximately 47 students will be from out of state, with approximately 27 of them arriving from non-exempt locations.

Most of the 600 students will be participating in one or more on campus courses, however, based on scheduling it is anticipated that an average of approximately 250 students will be attending in-person campus each weekday. There are no classes on weekends.

Social Distancing

The U.S. federal CDC has recommended maintaining a physical distance of six feet between individuals, the World Health Organization guidance states approximately three feet is acceptable. There is no precise threshold for safety, however, studies suggest that physical distancing of three feet or more leads to reduced transmission, with additional distance providing additional protection.

The College has developed a back-to-campus model referred to as Fisher Flex. This model of living and learning will support social distancing in residence halls, common areas and classrooms. Reduced class sizes associated with the Fisher Flex model will allow students to fit comfortably into classroom spaces at this distance. Face coverings must be worn at all times, even when passing in the hallways. Removal of face covering will only be permitted during mealtimes and or when students are in their residence hall rooms.

Signage will be posted throughout the College reminding faculty, staff, and students of social distancing and traffic patterns in the hallways and stairwells. A traffic pattern in hallways and one-way stairways and designated entry and exit doors in the classrooms will be clearly marked

when possible. The College class schedule will be altered to include staggered passing times to allow for more social/physical distance in the hallways

Visitors to the Campus

Until further notice, there will be no social visitors allowed on campus, including family. This includes common areas and residence halls. Meetings will be virtual unless otherwise arranged for an extenuating circumstance during which time all safety protocols must be followed. Face covering must be worn by all persons, at all times, when on school grounds. Proper handwashing and social distancing procedures must be followed. All approved visitors will need to be screened and registered for contact tracing purposes.

Personal Protective Equipment Requirements

Face covering over the nose and the mouth must be worn by all faculty, staff and students, authorized visitors while in common areas on campus including classrooms, offices, hallways and common areas. This coupled with social distancing is a key component of our safety plan.

Students should come to campus with an appropriate face covering, but will also be provided with a Fisher branded washable mask at check-in. Extra disposable face covering will be available in the event a student, faculty or staff member forgets their mask.

In cases where students refuse to wear their face covering, the student will be subject to the College conduct hearing process with disciplinary actions including possible dismissal from the College.

Additionally, the College has installed COVID-19 barriers (plexi-glass or similar materials) in classrooms for faculty use and some of the high traffic offices and common areas.

Hygiene Protocols

Hand Washing and Sanitizing

Proper hygiene and handwashing are critical to our safety plan. Outside each classroom hand sanitizers have been installed. Additionally, hand sanitizing stations will be installed in the hallways of all buildings. Training coupled with signage encouraging frequent hand washing and or sanitizing will be placed throughout the campus buildings and common spaces.

Regular Sanitization High touch areas and classrooms

The College will follow CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting the facilities <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>. A complete cleaning will take place each evening with additional cleaning of high touch surfaces, classrooms and common areas on a pre-established cycle daily. Students will be instructed through training and signage to utilize disinfectant wipes placed in each classroom to clean their individual work areas before each class even when such spaces have just been disinfected by Facilities (*see also Cleaning & Disinfecting section below for further details*).

General Operations

All faculty, staff, and students will receive training on the College's Reopening Plan and Fisher Flex model, prior to the start of in-person services. Faculty, staff and students will receive training on social distancing, face covering, hand-washing, mitigation procedures, personal hygiene, signs and symptoms of illness, assessment, isolation, quarantine, contact tracing, and all other detection and response protocols. This training may be live or provided via online materials. Everyone will also be informed to review the materials posted on Fisher College's COVID-19 section of the College website prior to returning to campus.

Procedures/Guidelines for Community Members with Symptoms of COVID-19

Student, faculty, or staff are prohibited from coming to campus if they exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 as noted on the CDC website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

Refer to the section on **Detection and Response** for detailed procedures and requirements for isolation, quarantine and to return to campus should this occur.

Faculty and Staff at Higher Risk Unable to Work Onsite

The Director of Human Resources has provided all staff and faculty with instructions to request work from home accommodations or a leave of absence that applies to an employee's individual circumstances. Substitutes will be provided for faculty to ensure students receive a complete learning experience, although class modality may need to be adjusted (moved to remote learning) to adjust to changing circumstances around faculty exposure.

Supporting Students Unable to Return to In-Person Learning

All students have been offered the opportunity to attend classes fully online or to attend onsite in the Fisher Flex model. If a student who chooses campus-based learning becomes ill or is otherwise unable to safely continue onsite learning, they must notify the College Nurse who will implement a verification and support plan in conjunction with the Vice President for Academic Affairs. If their request is approved, faculty will be asked to support the student through remote learning until such time as they are able to return to campus. If the student is requesting this change for COVID-19 related reasons, the policies regarding quarantine and/or isolation will be followed, as detailed in the section on **Detection and Response**.

Gatherings on Campus

Gatherings will be strictly limited to reduced capacity classroom seating and follow all current state or city guidelines. No in-person social events, speakers or student life/academic programming will exceed the approved limits. Additionally, any such event must be approved in advance.

Campus Amenities and Servicers Shall Adhere to All Sector-Specific Safety Protocols

Office spaces: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/safety-standards-and-checklist-office-spaces>

Dining Services <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/safety-standards-and-checklist-restaurants>

Gym <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/safety-standards-and-checklist-fitness-centers-and-health-clubs>

Campus Stores <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/safety-standards-and-checklist-retail-businesses>

Events <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/safety-standards-and-checklist-indoor-and-outdoor-events>

Cleaning and Disinfecting

The College cleaning and disinfecting protocols are based on CDC recommendations, using EPA approved disinfectants. A complete and thorough cleaning will take place each evening for all classrooms, common areas (including hallways, elevators, dining facilities, etc.) Additional custodial coverage will be provided to sanitize and disinfect classrooms, commons areas, elevators, handrails and doorknobs on a structured cleaning cycle throughout the day.

The bathrooms used by faculty, staff and students will be cleaned and disinfected **at the beginning, middle and end of every day**. Disinfection wipes, hand soap and paper towels will be available in all bathrooms.

Disinfectant wipes will be available inside of each classroom and throughout every building. Students will be instructed to use hand sanitizer prior to entering a classroom and to utilize disinfectant wipes to clean their individual work areas before class. After class all students will be asked to use hand sanitizer upon exiting the classroom.

COMMUNICATION & SUPPORT

Fisher shall establish consistent communication to all students, faculty and staff during all phases of re-opening. Messaging will be provided through one or more of Fisher College's communication modes, including but not limited to the website, social media, email and via Blackboard Connect (Emergency Notification System). During the four weeks leading up to the semester reopening, weekly communications will be provided to ensure students and families are aware of all procedures, safety protocols and guidelines.

Faculty and staff will receive weekly updates from the Director of Human Resources with all procedures, safety protocols and guidelines.

Fisher College shall place signage and physical distancing markers throughout the campus to ensure awareness and compliance with requirements.

Fisher College has created a plan called the Spring 2021 Remote Learning Transition Plan to adjust and transition from campus-based learning and residential life to remote learning should it become necessary. The College will use the following guidelines to determine the need to move to remote learning:

- 1) If State, City or Federal guidelines mandate the switch to remote learning
- 2) If an outbreak occurs on campus determined by internal metrics

The Spring 2021 Remote Learning Transition plan will incorporate two major components:

- 1) Residential students returning home.
- 2) The transition of all courses to online instruction.

The College staff and faculty have been trained on this transition plan and are aware of their responsibilities should the plan of action be required.

Fisher College shall, through its nursing staff, establish clear communication and escalation points with City of Boston Board of Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health and other state and local agencies as needed.

Reporting of positive tests shall be communicated to the City of Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) by our testing partner the Broad Institute. The Broad Institute testing results will link up to the Maven system used by the MA Department of Public Health (DPH) and BPHC. Fisher College will also be using the BPHC and/or the Contact Tracing Collaborative to conduct contact tracing.

Fisher College shall continue to provide emotional and mental health services to students. This may require online technology or telephone counseling in place of live sessions. Referrals to area mental health care providers will also be available. On site counseling will also be provided on an as needed basis.

DETECTION & RESPONSE – See Appendix A.

Fisher College is partnering with the Broad Institute for implementation of our overall testing strategy. In addition, the College has contracted with CoVerified, a symptom monitoring app connected to the Broad Institute. CoVerified will supplement the College's detection process by providing symptomatic tracking protocols. All members of the community will be required to use CoVerified daily in order to screen for symptoms of COVID-19.

Full details are contained in Appendix A.

ATHLETICS – See Appendix A.

Full details are contained in Appendix A.