

Scenarios of COVID-19 Transmission¹

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This document is organized into recommendations for scenarios based on levels of disease incidence occurring on or surrounding campus. The recommended actions are meant to help minimize transmission of COVID-19 for students, staff, and faculty.

The scenarios are built on the following principles:

- The scenarios are “stackable,” for example, Scenario 2 should include Scenario 1’s activities.
- All recommendations apply to all campuses and additional locations.
- Vaccination uptake levels may influence mitigation decisions.
- When deciding to shift into another scenario or when developing mitigation measures, the university will consider levels of vaccination coverage on campus. Higher vaccination rates help reduce transmission potential.

Transmission level indicator decision points

The level of transmission risk is associated with the likelihood of viral spread or outbreak. The likelihood of outbreaks is directly tied to vaccination levels among students, staff, and faculty.

Scenario 1 – Indicators for low transmission levels (green)

Transmission levels are seen as manageable by the institution.

- Cases of COVID-19 on the campus are manageable by the institution.
- Off campus/alternative isolation and quarantine options are less than 50% full.

¹West Chester University has identified the guidance issued by the Minnesota Department of Health as a comprehensive resource upon which to establish COVID-19 transmission protocols. The language contained within this document is largely a verbatim presentation of the text included in the following document:
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/iherecs.pdf>

Scenario 2 – Indicators for medium transmission levels (yellow)

Transmission levels are beginning to increase on campus.

If **two or more** of the following indicators are met, strongly consider implementing mitigation efforts suggested in Scenario 2 action items below.

- Active cases among those students who are routinely on campus comprise more than 1% of students over a 14-day period.
 - “Routinely on campus” is defined as those living on campus or coming to campus for classes or activities.
- 50-75% of off-campus/alternative isolation and quarantine options are full.
- Other internal metrics are showing concerning signs, for example, significantly increased absenteeism among faculty and/or staff.

Scenario 3 – Indicators for high transmission levels (orange)

Transmission levels have further depleted or exhausted institutional resources.

Increased case activity may be occurring on campus, in the community, or both. If **two or more** of the following indicators are met, strongly consider implementing mitigation efforts suggested in Scenario 3.

- Number of infections continue to increase for the two weeks after Scenario 2 mitigation efforts were put into place.
- Clusters of cases are not confined to one specific group; cases are increasing across the total campus population.
- Active cases among students who are routinely on campus comprise more than 3% of students over a 14-day period.
- More than 75% of off-campus/alternative isolation and quarantine options are full.

Scenario 4 – Sustained high transmission levels (red)

Transmission levels have seriously depleted or exhausted institutional resources.

Action items in response to scenarios

This section provides a list of strategies to consider implementing, depending on the risk level of transmission on campus.

Scenario 1 – Low level of transmission (green)

Transmission levels are not taxing the institution's resources.

Follow guidance as outlined in the [How to Protect Yourself & Others](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fyour-health%2Fneed-to-know.html) guidance by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fyour-health%2Fneed-to-know.html)

Scenario 2 – Medium level of transmission (yellow)

Transmission levels are taxing campus resources. All prior recommendations apply, with the following additional recommendations.

General recommendations

- Expand vaccine clinic if clusters are due to low vaccine coverage on campus.
- Promote importance of self-screening.
- Reinforce health etiquette expectations.
- Reach out to state and local agencies for testing support, if needed.
- Review mask use practices and policies based on campus operations and a careful review of cases.

Academic programming

- In the event of a prolonged period of medium level of transmission, review academic policies to accommodate these situations. Professors and instructors should prepare to teach via alternative learning options to ensure academic continuity for students at any point in the semester.

Scenario 3 – High level of transmission (orange)

Transmission levels have seriously depleted or exhausted institutional resources. All prior recommendations apply with these additions.

General considerations

- Evaluate Co-curricular activities, including but not limited to clubs, and organizations to significantly scale back attendance and the frequency of meeting and moved to virtual gatherings whenever possible; urge postponement or cancelation when feasible.
- Consider implementing social distancing practices of at least six (6) feet between individuals wherever possible.
- Impose a campus curfew if review of cases suggests a curfew would be a useful mitigation measure.
- Inventory of critical supplies (e.g., cleaning and disinfectant agents, hand sanitizers, personal protective equipment supplies) will be reviewed and a strategic stockpiling will be considered.

Communication

- Ensure regular updates to people on campus about the status of case levels.
- Review plans to cease in-person classes if Scenario 4 must be activated.
- Plan social media outreach, monitoring, and response.

Academic programming

- Evaluate the need to move classes to a synchronous remote format for a period of time (two weeks, for example).
- Consider the need for designated spaces with a reliable internet connection for students to join remote classes.

Residence life and dining

- Restrict outside access to guests visiting residence halls.
- Work with off-campus housing where possible to consider limits to visitation.
- Continue quarantining on-campus residents off campus.
- Evaluate offering more to-go options and limiting the number of people that can be in the dining facilities at any one time.

Student support services

- Carefully evaluate how to support students who already experience racial, ethnic, or socio-economic disparities; COVID-19 is exacerbating those disparities.
- Within the context of the law, be supportive of multiple forms of both instructional and non-instructional accommodations, as needs will vary. Examples may include anything from technological support to food security.

Information technology

- Increase access to loanable computers, including desktops, laptops, tablets, etc.
- Increase remote access to computer labs, and check availability of Wi-Fi hotspots.

Scenario 3 – High level of transmission (orange) continued

Athletics and recreational programs

- Consider moving to only individual development and exercise for athletes.
- Consider reducing capacity in weight rooms and recreation center.
- Consider reducing spectators at events with specific attention to cessation or limiting of spectator attendance to indoor sports activities.

Campus operations and maintenance

- Increase frequency of cleaning and disinfecting on campus.
- Consider modifying or limiting hours of operation (especially for areas where students tend to gather or cluster).
- Continue to monitor and enforce recommended guidelines for social distancing.
- Ensure that enforcement ensures compliance with the institution's policies and procedures.

Third-party use of facilities, events, and rentals

- Consider canceling all third-party events and refund deposits, to the extent possible.

Plan for Scenario 4 if numbers do not decrease

- Consider ways to further reduce the number of residents in residence halls.

Scenario 4 – Sustained, high transmission levels (red)

Transmission levels have exhausted institutional resources.

The above mitigation efforts have not resulted in an improvement over a two- to three-week period after Scenario 3 has been put in place. Campus instruction and activities are likely to be moved to synchronous remote delivery only until the next semester or after a semester break.