



State System Preparation for Fall 2020

Board of Governors Meeting
June 10, 2020



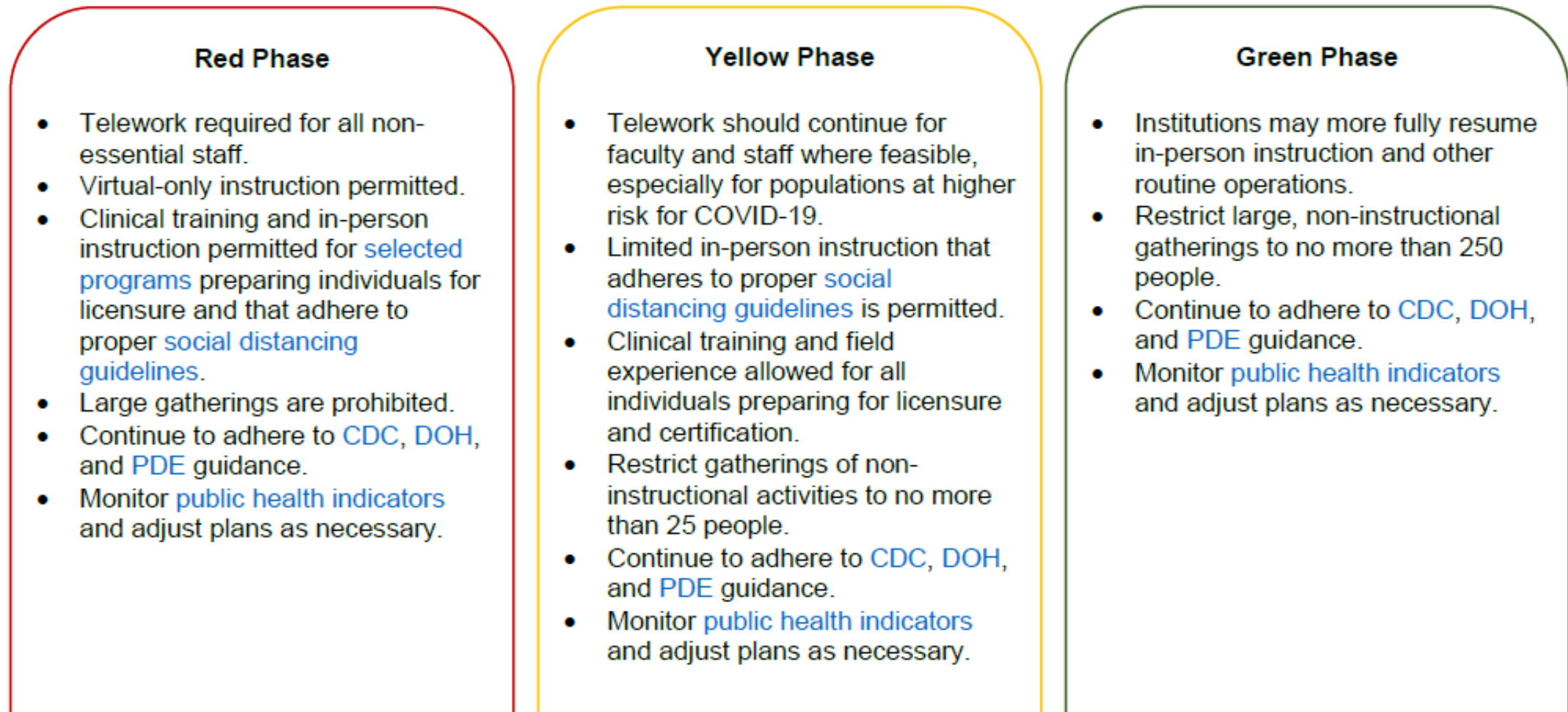
Pennsylvania's
STATE SYSTEM
of Higher Education

The System's Approach to Fall 2020 | Overview

- University presidents determine how universities engage in face-to-face instruction
- University plans that are being developed—with input from local stakeholders, other presidents, and the Chancellor's office—will comply with federal and state guidelines; will be completed in the coming weeks and made available on university websites
- Plans will vary reflecting local circumstances
- Plans will be consistent in:
 - supporting all students' progress towards degrees/credentials while mitigating health and safety risks
 - including contingency plans for alternate modes of operation should the pandemic evolve in such a way to require it
 - Complying with State System collective bargaining agreements, academic, operational, and other policies and standard procedures

PA Department of Education Guidelines (1 of 4)

Figure 1. Overview of Allowable Instruction, Operations, Services, and Activities at Postsecondary Education Institutions and Adult Basic Education Programs by Phases Corresponding to Pennsylvania's Phased Reopening Plan



PA Department of Education Guidelines (2 of 4)

Postsecondary education institutions choosing to resume any of the in-person operations permitted during the various phases of PA's reopening plan are required to create their own Health and Safety Plan, or its equivalent, and make that plan available to the public before proceeding to resume in-person instruction, operations, services, and activities. The Health and Safety Plan must also be communicated to students, faculty, and staff. The plan should address, at minimum, the following set of strategies*:

- A strategy on how the institution will coordinate with local public health officials, or the equivalent of;
- A strategy to safely resume in-person instruction;
- A strategy to monitor health conditions on its campus community;
- A strategy to mitigate and contain the spread of the virus on campus, and to inform the DOH in the event that transmission occurs at the institution; and
- A strategy to communicate accurate and timely information to students, faculty, staff, and the communities it serves.

* Given the uncertainty related to the changing levels of community transmission of COVID-19, the commonwealth has initiated discussions with public health officials and other stakeholders about resurgence planning. The findings and determinations that emerge from these continued discussions will inform planning at all levels (i.e., state, county, local, etc.). Additional criteria to inform planning at the postsecondary level is forthcoming.

PA Department of Education Guidelines (3 of 4)

Additionally, the institution's plan should further address the following public health and safety measures*:

- Reinforce practices related to hygiene, sanitation, and face coverings on campus;
- Implement social distancing interventions and make the necessary modifications to facilities that may create an environment conducive to healthy, safe, and inclusive learning;
- Review and adjust attendance requirements, absentee policies, and non-essential travel for students, individuals at high risk of COVID-19, and personnel; and
- Modify course modalities, schedules, and academic calendars to adapt to changing transmission levels and community spread of the virus.

* Specific guidance and considerations associated with each of these public health and safety measures are provided in the [PDE guidance document](#)

PA Department of Education Guidelines (4 of 4)

Making practice recommendations in critical areas – these are not mandated

- Hygiene and Sanitation Protocols
- Face Coverings and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Social Distancing
- Limit Large Non-Instructional Gatherings or Congregation in Communal Spaces
- Limit Number of Students in the Classroom
- Control Entrance and Exits to Buildings
- Space Accommodations
- Residence Halls
- Ventilation
- Bathroom Facilities
- Clinical Health Services
- Mental Health Services
- Counter Stigma
- Vulnerable Populations
- Teleworking
- Phased Return to Campus
- Course Modifications and Adaptations
- Accommodations to the Academic Calendar
- Monitoring, Surveillance, and Voluntary Reporting
- Protocol for a Confirmed Case on Campus

Additional guidelines from OOC under consideration

- Institutionally sponsored travel for students and employees
- Expectations for students, faculty, and staff with respect of their roles in helping to mitigate health and safety risks
- Process for addressing requests from employees for flexible work arrangements
- Support for developing faculty capability with remote instruction

University plans | The planning process and timeline

Most universities are using a consultative process to include key constituencies and people with relevant functional expertise and/or a further socialization process where scenarios are shared with the campus community.

Universities have communicated about the process they are using to plan for the fall and will finalize their plans in the coming weeks.

University plans | Academic model

- Enabling social distancing via a variety of means
 - Inviting selected cohorts back to campus for face-to-face instruction
 - Providing students with flexible (face-to-face, and synchronous and asynchronous online access to instruction) delivery options, inviting specific cohorts/groups of students to campus while asking others to remain remote
 - Modifying course schedules, using flipped approaches
- Modifying the academic calendar to distribute students differently across the curriculum, and/or curtail the semester for potential increase in flu and COVID-19 outbreaks over winter months
- Ensuring university can go fully or largely remote if need be
- Supporting faculty in remote delivery

University plans | Face-to-face instruction

Achieving social distancing in face-to-face instruction via a variety of means:

- Equipping classrooms to support face-to-face and online instruction
- Moving large classes online
- Using larger spaces for instruction that aren't ordinarily used for instruction

University plans | Student life (activities, housing, dining)

- Moving many/most student activities/supports to online modality, excepting those that can be conducted in small groups and with social distancing
- Minimizing housing occupancy through a variety of means
- Favoring dining options that force social distancing e.g. using grab-and-go, delivery to room, distributing food availability to multiple sites
- Awaiting guidelines from NCAA and PSAC on athletics

University plans | Health and safety

Doing the basic nuts and bolts to mitigate risk, e.g.

- Requiring social distancing and masks for students and employees
- Introducing barriers in selected areas
- Providing PPE to selected employees working in certain situations
- Introducing cleaning protocols
- Managing traffic flow

Working with local health providers and equivalent in

- Making arrangements to deal with COVID-19 positive test
- Ensuring quarantine is available for those who need it

Awaiting guidelines from PDE to deal with “resurgence”

Considerable variation exists with respect of testing, contact tracing, and temperature monitoring, reflective of need of state- or system-level guidance, and, more critically, financial support

Board action

MOTION: The Board of Governors hereby endorses the development of the State System's 2020 Fall Framework and affirms its use by all 14 institutions within the State System. The Board further affirms the Chancellor's authority to modify the framework as needed to enable the State System and its sister institutions to nimbly respond to the evolving circumstances in a timely manner.