

## Your Question:

You asked for information on state or institutional policies intended to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on college campuses.

## Our Response:

Based on our review, state reopening plans offer recommendations for institutions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on campuses and in the greater communities through social distancing, sanitation and hygiene. Below are examples from three state reopening plans: **California**, **New York** and **Pennsylvania**, as well as a spotlight on two higher education institutions and one school district and their efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

### California

The state of **California** outlined specific guidance in their [reopening plan](#) for higher education institutions to help prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19 on campuses and in the greater campus communities. Common practices include implementing distancing on campus with modified classroom/common area layouts, increasing the use of physical barriers such as sneeze guards and partitions, limiting access to communal areas or restricting occupancy and updating established occupancy of residence halls. Should any member of the community come in contact with or be diagnosed with COVID-19, the California Department of Public Health shared [guidance](#) on Isolation and Quarantine for COVID-19 Contact Tracing.

### New York

The state of **New York** outlines, in its phase four statewide [reopening plan](#), specific instances of mandatory versus recommended [guidelines](#) for higher education institutions. These guidelines include communication on physical distancing, protective equipment and screening requirements. Within guidance for physical distancing, face masks are required and recommendations for implementation of distancing measures in classrooms or communal areas is provided. It is also recommended that institutions reduce bi-directional foot traffic using signage throughout campus.

### Pennsylvania

In phase two of their [reopening plan](#), **Pennsylvania** requires that educational institutions follow the department of education guidance for reopening [pre-K to grade 12](#) and [postsecondary and adult education](#). Within section two of their postsecondary guidance, **Pennsylvania** offers guidance informed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health that should be considered to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 on college campuses. Like both **California** and **New York**, **Pennsylvania** recommends intentional hygiene and sanitation protocols including facemasks and personal protective equipment and implementation of social distancing interventions. Guidance also articulates the limitations of large non-instructional gatherings in communal spaces following a phased plan of zero non-instructional gatherings in the red phase, 25 people maximum in the yellow phase and 250 people in the green phase. **Pennsylvania** also offers guidance on policies and practices to provide accommodations for vulnerable populations.

## Institutional/School Examples

At the institutional level, many institutions have implemented wastewater testing to monitor the spread of COVID-19 in community spaces on campus. The [University of Arizona](#) was able to pinpoint a 311-person residence hall and identify two asymptomatic students who tested positive for COVID-19. These students were quarantined, and school officials believe their actions helped to prevent a campus outbreak of the virus. Additionally, the [University of Colorado Boulder](#) has used wastewater tests to detect possible outbreaks and are encouraging students and staff to get tested so that self-isolation and quarantine procedures may prevent a campus outbreak. Schools and colleges are implementing forms of contact tracing to catch any potential outbreak of COVID-19. [Surveillance measures](#) are being used in **Ohio**, and K-12 schools and many universities in the district of New Albany-Plain and the greater community are considering contact tracing to monitor social distancing and to quickly identify students who may have been exposed to the virus.