

RIT



**RIT
READY**

**Fall 2020
Reopening
Plan**



“We know we cannot guarantee a COVID-free environment, but we are taking every measure to mitigate both personal and community risks. This plan outlines those steps. A successful fall semester will require every member of RIT to work together and do their part in adhering to the safety guidelines.”



RIT Fall Planning Task Force

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The logo consists of three overlapping, rounded square shapes. The top shape is red, the middle one is orange, and the bottom one is yellow. The text "RIT READY" is centered in white within the orange shape.

**RIT
READY**

Contents

Letter from the Fall Planning Task Force

Rochester Institute of Technology is actively preparing for an on-campus fall semester. The health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and visitors is the most important consideration as we plan to reopen. The Fall Planning Task Force – along with the Academic Planning, Infrastructure and Health Technologies, and Community Readiness committees – was formed to develop creative strategies and contingency plans to enable a safe and successful reopening. In addition to members of the RIT community, both local and national public health experts were engaged to help us develop our plans and protocols.

This plan is a result of hard work by hundreds of members of the Tiger community who have been working to prepare Rochester Institute of Technology for a successful fall 2020 campus reopening. A big thank you to all of your efforts and continued dedication to RIT. We also want to thank the entire RIT community for your patience and support throughout this unprecedented time.

We know we cannot guarantee a COVID-free environment, but we are taking every measure to mitigate both personal and community risks. This plan outlines those steps. A successful fall semester will require every member of RIT to work together and do their part in adhering to the safety guidelines outlined in the RIT Ready Pledge. We all have a role to play.

Introduction and Guiding Principles for Reopening Plan

This plan will guide RIT forward in its efforts to keep our campus and community safe, minimizing the spread of the coronavirus. This plan is grounded by the following principles:

- > Protect the health and safety of RIT faculty, staff, students, alumni, guests, and our surrounding communities
- > Ensure the continued delivery of RIT's high-quality educational and research experiences
- > Provide a residential campus experience that is uniquely RIT
- > Recognize that all members of RIT share the responsibility of keeping our community healthy and safe

This plan applies to all RIT faculty, staff, students, and visitors. It is a compilation of planning efforts from divisions and operations across campus and is divided into three main sections: Health and Safety, Academics and Research, and Campus Life. The first section focuses on our plans to safely repopulate the RIT campus, monitor prevalence of the virus, contain viral spread, and instigate contingency plans should the need arise to shift to remote operations. The second section discusses the adjustments made in course modalities, classroom infrastructure, library operations, and research. The final section, Campus Life, outlines plans for student activities, athletics, dining services, transportation, communication, and other topics. More detailed guidance and information can be found in the [RIT Safety Plan](#).

Our plans acknowledge our shared responsibility for keeping the RIT community healthy and safe. They are aligned and consistent with applicable local, state, and federal laws, as well as the guidelines published as part of New York Forward: A Guide to Re-opening New York and Building Back Better ("New York Forward").

As our knowledge and understanding of the pandemic continues to evolve, and additional state and federal guidance becomes available, so too will our plans and procedures evolve. What will remain constant is the critical role that every member of the RIT community plays to keep us all safe. We expect every individual to take the steps necessary to protect each other and the community at large, enabling a successful fall semester.

Take the RIT Ready Pledge



As RIT Tigers, we recognize that our actions impact others, and we **ALL** play a role in keeping our RIT community healthy and safe against the spread of COVID-19.

I pledge to:

PROTECT myself and others by:

-  WEARING a mask that covers my nose and mouth when in public
-  WASHING my hands frequently, for 20 seconds each time, and using hand sanitizer
-  WATCHING my physical distance, staying six feet apart

PREVENT the spread of COVID-19 by:

-  Practicing daily self-care
-  Keeping shared spaces clean
-  Using the RIT Health Daily Screen every day
-  Contacting a health care provider if I have any [COVID-19 symptoms](#)
-  Scanning the contact tracing QR codes when I'm moving about campus
-  Staying home when I feel sick

PREPARE and plan ahead by:

-  Adhering to [RIT guidelines](#)
-  Following directional signage throughout campus
-  Keeping important supplies with me at all times – mask and hand sanitizer
-  Finding ways to be together socially, while physically distant

**TOGETHER,
we can stay
RIT READY
and minimize
the spread of
the coronavirus.**

Health and Safety



Repopulating Campus

RIT is taking a phased approach to repopulating campus. Prior to returning to campus, members of the RIT community must be tested for COVID-19 and, beginning 14 days before their arrival on campus, utilize the Daily Health Screen to track symptoms and quarantine at home inasmuch as practical.

Faculty and Staff

Many of our staff who are essential for on-campus operations have already returned. Essential research labs have opened as well. Throughout the month of July, department offices may begin to reopen with the following considerations and restrictions:

- > The total number of occupants at any given time is limited to no more than 50% of maximum occupancy in a given area. Departments may use remote work arrangements and flexible scheduling to accomplish this.
- > If there are no requirements to work on campus and work can be done remotely, faculty and staff may be given the opportunity to work remotely until otherwise notified.
- > Tele- or video-conferencing is encouraged for administrative functions and/or meetings.
- > Checklists have been developed for different space types to help managers prepare their areas for reopening.

Students

The same phased approach will be used for students returning to campus. Move-in will be spread out over a full week (four days for residence halls and another four days for apartments). The following considerations and restrictions apply:

- > Any student arriving from outside the United States shall follow the "Isolation or Quarantine" section of the [RIT Safety Plan](#).
- > Students arriving from states with significant community spread of COVID-19 must be tested a second time upon their return to campus and, if positive, follow quarantine procedures.
- > All on-campus students will be given specific, assigned move-in times, and permitted one (1) non-resident (e.g., parent, friend, or other adult) to assist with move-in on campus. Nonresidents will be permitted in residence halls during move-in for one (1) hour. This nonresident restriction shall not apply to personal aides, nurses, care givers, or any other reasonable accommodations provided to students with disabilities.
- > Anyone assisting a student with move-in is considered a visitor and must adhere to the visitor policy.

Vulnerable Populations

- > Individuals with certain conditions may have a higher risk for COVID-19 infection. These conditions, which will be updated as new information becomes available, currently include:
 - Older adults (age 65 and older)
 - Chronic kidney disease
 - COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
 - Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
 - Obesity (body mass index (BMI) of 30 or higher)
 - Serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
 - Sickle cell disease
 - Type 2 diabetes mellitus
- > Faculty and staff with concerns about returning to work due to a medical condition that places them in a higher risk group, or those who wish to seek a COVID-19 related accommodation in order to perform the essential functions of their job, may complete the [COVID-19 Related Accommodation Request form](#).
- > Students who have concerns should contact the [Disability Services Office](#) for appropriate accommodations if needed.

Training

All RIT faculty, staff, and students will complete COVID-19 training prior to returning to campus. This training will cover a variety of topics including:

- > Awareness of COVID-19, how it is transmitted and the related symptoms
- > RIT's expectations of people returning to campus
- > Your role in keeping our RIT community healthy and safe against the spread of COVID-19
- > How to protect yourself from COVID-19
- > Appropriate masks or personal protection equipment (PPE)
- > What to do if you get sick

Engineering Controls

Over the summer our facilities units have been hard at work implementing a number of health and safety improvements and engineering controls to campus buildings, shared spaces, and infrastructure. Changes include:

- > Redesign of spaces to reduce density to a maximum of 50% capacity
- > Installation of bipolar ionization systems in residence halls, apartments, and academic buildings to help neutralize viruses, bacteria, allergens, mold, and other airborne contaminants. Unlike other air filtration units, the ions interact with biological contaminants to make them inert.
- > Touchless paper towel dispensers and touchless entries in restrooms
- > Shields installed at service desk locations and the front of classrooms
- > 3D coating and electro-plating on more than 600 door pulls around campus
- > Hand sanitizer dispenser stations in entrances of all major buildings and in academic areas based on student population
- > Signage placed throughout campus reminding occupants of health and safety practices such as physical distancing, face masks, and hand washing

- > Distance markers placed by service desks, cash registers, and other locations where lines may form
- > Occupied spaces will maintain HVAC system operation for maximum space occupancy to allow for maximum fresh air supply, regardless of reduced occupancy or use
- > Building reopening:
 - Water is being run in all campus buildings on a daily basis, including drinking fountains. Water is run routinely as part of the “turning over” cleaning that is performed over the summer in apartments
 - HVAC unit set points were adjusted but not shut down during the pause. Over summer, HVAC units were primed, including in apartments, and filters changed, etc.

Site Safety Monitors

Site safety monitors will be identified for every division. They are responsible for ensuring that their area is in compliance with the provisions of the [RIT Safety Plan](#). This includes but is not limited to verifying that:

- > All employees in their area have participated in COVID-19 training
- > All employees are aware that they need to report symptoms daily
- > All employees have and are using appropriate face masks
- > Areas have COVID-19 Maximum Capacity signs
- > Areas have reduced their density below 50% of maximum capacity
- > Workstations are at least 6 feet apart
- > Workplace is being cleaned on a regular basis
- > Educational signage is posted in their areas

Physical Distancing

- > A minimum of 6 feet of physical distance should be maintained between individuals. In situations where respiratory output is greater than normal (e.g., performing arts, athletic activities), a minimum distance of 12 feet must be implemented.
- > Tightly confined spaces (e.g., elevators, kitchenettes, restrooms, laundry rooms) are to be occupied by only one (1) individual at a time unless all occupants are wearing face masks. If occupied by more than one person, occupancy of such areas is to be kept under 50% of normal maximum capacity.
- > RIT will use larger, nontraditional spaces for holding classes, e.g., the University Gallery, Wegmans Theatre, MAGIC Soundstage, meeting rooms in CIMS/Slaughter, Clark Gym, Davis Dining Hall, etc., to allow classes to meet under physical distancing restrictions.
- > Common areas, lounges, and restrooms are limited to 50% occupancy or less as posted.
- > Furniture will be re-arranged, removed, or marked-off to ensure physical distancing.

Face Masks

- > Any time members of the RIT community are indoors in the presence of others, or moving through space occupied by others, they must wear acceptable face coverings, or face masks as they are referred to in this plan, regardless of the distance between themselves and others.
- > Any time members of the RIT community are outdoors in the presence of others and cannot maintain, or are reasonably expected to not maintain, at least 6 feet of separation from others, they must wear acceptable face masks (see table below).

- > May not be shared, and should be properly stored or discarded
- > Not required if working alone in an office or private room, except as required by another policy or procedure
- > Face shields are not a replacement for face masks. The only time a face shield may be worn without a face mask is when a faculty member is behind a Plexiglas barrier in teaching settings and is wearing a face shield that covers all sides of the face.

Type and Intended Use of Face Masks

Type	Cloth Face Mask	Disposable Mask	Surgical Mask	N95	Accessible Mask
Description	Homemade or commercially manufactured face mask that is washable and helps contain wearer's respiratory emissions	Commercially manufactured face mask that helps contain wearer's respiratory emissions	FDA-approved for use in health care settings	NIOSH-approved for use in health care or other approved areas with known respiratory hazards	Masks provided to individuals based on requests for accommodations due to a disability
Care Instructions	Should be washed or replaced daily	Should be disposed of daily	Replace according to manufacturer's instructions	Replace according to manufacturer's instructions	Replace according to manufacturer's instructions
Intended Use	Required for campus community use in non-health care settings		Reserved for health care settings and other approved areas with task specific hazards		Requests considered on an individualized basis and in accordance with RIT's Workplace Accommodations process or the Disability Services Office

Cleaning and Disinfection Protocols

Facilities Management Services has enacted deep cleaning processes to help protect our community from pathogens in our buildings. Elements include:

- > Increased the frequency of cleaning our public areas (including lobbies, elevators, door handles, common touch areas, public bathrooms, etc.) to at least two times per day
- > Increased the frequency of cleaning residence hall restrooms
- > Daily cleaning completed with disinfectant that is compliant with EPA COVID-19 standards
- > Logs detailing cleaning and disinfecting dates/times will be maintained for common spaces and classrooms
- > Prominently placed hand sanitizer stations throughout campus entrances
- > Enhanced technologies including multiple electrostatic sprayers to disinfect surfaces throughout the campus as needed
- > Processes have been established for cleaning of spaces where someone is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19. These processes have been developed using CDC guidelines: "Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility."

Hygiene

While on campus, the RIT community shall limit the sharing of objects, including desks, supplies, and workstations. The touching of shared surfaces is discouraged. If shared surfaces must be touched, gloves should be worn or hands should be washed or sanitized before and after contact. Hygiene and sanitation requirements from the CDC and the DOH shall be adhered to. These requirements include:

- > Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- > Use hand sanitizer when you cannot use soap and water
- > Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- > Cover your cough and sneezes, and immediately wash or sanitize your hands
- > Avoid sharing personal items

Travel

Once safe travel can resume, only essential travel will be permitted. Such travel must be approved by the appropriate dean, vice president, or vice provost, subject to the [RIT Safety Plan](#). Long weekends and breaks have been eliminated from the fall schedule to discourage faculty, staff, or student travel during the semester.

Visitors

Visitors will be allowed at RIT. All visitors are expected to comply with applicable laws, regulations, and guidelines relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the requirements of this plan and the [RIT Safety Plan](#). This includes utilization of the Daily Health Screen prior to coming on campus. Failure to comply will result in the removal of visitors, until such time as assurances can be provided that compliance has been achieved. For information regarding visitors to the residence halls, see the Residential Living section.

Monitoring



RIT will use a variety of monitoring strategies to track health conditions on campus. The results will be used to inform the risk level on campus and actions that may need to be taken.

Symptom Monitoring

All members of the RIT community must be free of any symptoms related to COVID-19 while on campus. Any individual who has been in close contact – less than 6 feet (2 meters) – for more than ten (10) minutes with anyone with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection should notify the [Student Health Center](#) (students) or their personal physician (faculty/staff) immediately.

Daily Health Screening

To assist with symptom monitoring, faculty, staff, and students must complete the RIT Daily Health Screening every day, seven days a week, whether or not they are coming to campus. The webpage will provide users with instructions on how to proceed if they are experiencing symptoms or have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19. They will also receive reminder emails every day to complete the Daily Health Screening.

Symptoms to Monitor

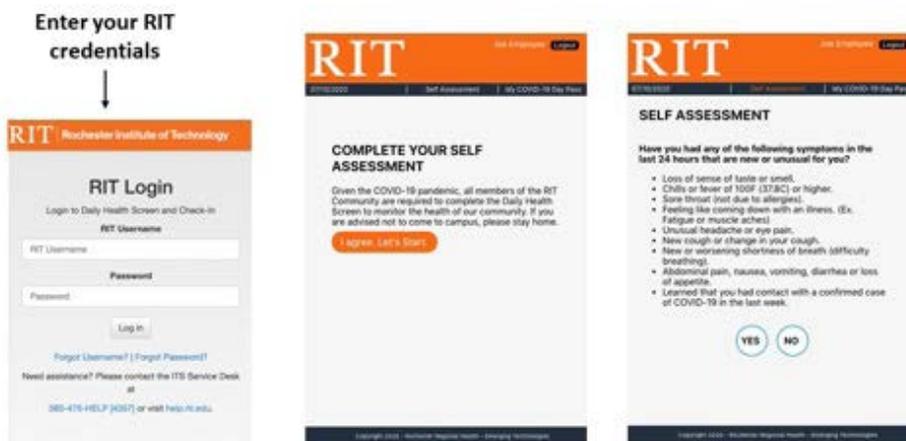
- > Loss of sense of smell or taste
- > Chills or fever of 100° F (37.8° C)
- > Sore throat (not due to allergies)
- > Feeling like coming down with an illness (e.g., fatigue or muscle ache)
- > Unusual headache or eye pain
- > New cough or change in your cough
- > New or worsening shortness of breath (difficult to breathe)
- > Abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of appetite (skipping a meal)
- > Contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19

Symptoms related to COVID-19 are subject to change based on CDC guidance.

Should I be on Campus?



Using the RIT Daily Health Screen



If the individual's pass says "STOP: DO NOT REPORT TO RIT," they will receive follow-up instructions on the next screen.

- > **Students** will be directed to contact the [Student Health Center](#) for further assessment to determine whether or not they can be on campus.
- > **Faculty/Staff** will be directed to call the symptom check hotline for evaluation of their symptoms by a medical professional and will be either cleared to work on campus, told to stay home and monitor symptoms, or directed to contact their health care provider.

If at any point in time during the day an individual begins showing signs of COVID-19 (or any illness), they should go to their home or residence immediately and contact the [Student Health Center](#) (students) or their personal physician (faculty/staff).

Wastewater Surveillance

Wastewater testing is one part of RIT's overall surveillance program. The virus is shed in feces within 3 days of infection. Symptoms can take much longer to present, making wastewater an important early detection tool. While a sample of wastewater cannot determine an exact number of people with COVID-19, it clearly indicates whether incidence of the disease is increasing, decreasing, or unchanged.

- > RIT will begin sampling prior to students' return to campus in order to establish a baseline.
- > Twice a week, wastewater will be sampled from RIT-owned residence halls and apartment complexes.
- > If a spike is detected in one of the sampling areas, targeted testing will be conducted to identify and isolate infected individuals.

Testing

RIT is taking a multifaceted approach to testing at the start of the semester and throughout the year. All faculty, staff, and students are responsible for getting a COVID-19 test prior to coming to campus and must provide evidence of a negative result in order to return. Individuals returning from areas with significant community spread of COVID-19 will be required to take an additional test upon their return to campus. If an individual tests positive, they will be required to follow isolation procedures.

Focused Testing

- > Individuals exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or who have been in close contact (as defined by the Monroe County Department of Health) with individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be tested.
- > In instances where wastewater samples or other surveillance methods indicate an increased risk of exposure, RIT will conduct follow up testing to specify the source.
- > Focused and surveillance testing for students will be overseen by the Student Health Center, in an on-campus testing facility dedicated to COVID-19. This includes the testing required for those students returning from states with significant community spread of COVID-19.
- > Faculty and staff will be directed to their personal physician for testing or a NYS Department of Health testing site. If they, or someone they reside with, tests positive for COVID-19, they must report this information to the Director of RIT's Environmental Health and Safety.

Contact Tracing

A positive test for COVID-19 will trigger contact tracing, which will be coordinated through the Monroe County Department of Public Health. All members of the RIT community are expected to comply with contact tracing efforts.

- > RIT has developed the Location Check-In website ("Location Check-In"), a web-based application for use on campus to aid in those contact tracing efforts. All members of the RIT community must use this website.
- > Location Check-In uses unique QR codes to identify individuals visiting classrooms, office areas with frequent visitors, and using the RIT shuttles.
- > Faculty, staff, and students must scan the QR code or enter the information directly on the Location Check-In website every time they enter these spaces, creating a detailed log of the rooms visited or shuttles used by an individual in order to aid contact tracers.
- > In the event of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, contact tracers will work in collaboration with campus officials and the Monroe County Department of Public Health to interview the impacted individual and determine significant contacts who may need to be placed in quarantine.
- > All members of the RIT community are expected to support and comply with contact tracing efforts by providing information about their movements and contacts when requested.

Containment



Quarantine and Isolation

Isolation will be mandated for anyone who tests positive and anyone deemed to have been in close contact with a confirmed case. Decisions regarding isolation and quarantine are made in accordance with County Department of Public Health guidance regarding risk based on proximity of contact, ventilation in the space where contact occurred, whether masks were worn, and the duration of contact. If ordered to quarantine or isolate, that person must self-quarantine for fourteen (14) days unless released earlier by the local public health department or designee.

- > Any individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 should not come to campus and should self-quarantine for 14 days from the positive COVID-19 test result or onset of COVID-19 related symptoms.
- > If a member of an RIT employee's or student's household (roommate, suitemate, housemate, etc.) shows symptoms of COVID-19, that person should be tested. While awaiting test results, that employee or student should not go to work or class and instead, should self-quarantine for a period of fourteen (14) days.

Students

- > During any period of isolation or quarantine, students will undergo active monitoring by the Student Health Center and will self-monitor for symptom development, check temperature twice daily, and keep a log of the results.
- > An adequate number of rooms have been set aside for isolation for students residing on campus who test positive.
- > For students residing in campus housing who test positive or have a suspected case of COVID-19, in addition to the requirements above, RIT will provide alternative housing if necessary to ensure adequate separation from the community for the duration of any isolation or quarantine period.
- > Students who are required to isolate or quarantine will have access to telehealth and student health services. Faculty will work with students in isolation or quarantine to allow them to make academic progress.
- > Students residing on campus will also be supported by meal delivery for their applicable on-campus meal plans, trash pickup, and laundry support.

Hygiene for disinfection and heavy traffic after positive COVID-19 test

Upon information that an individual has a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, notifications will be made to appropriate RIT departments – which may include the Registrar, Facilities Management Services, Residence Life, and Student Auxiliary Services – detailing the facilities used, or potentially used, by that individual in order to enact enhanced cleaning protocols in those areas and to safeguard the RIT community.

What is the difference between Isolation and Quarantine?

Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

Mitigation Strategies and Return to Remote Operations



We understand that there will be cases of COVID-19 on campus. We believe that the safety policies and procedures we have outlined in this plan, as well as the [RIT Safety Plan](#), when fully complied with will protect our community from increasing the spread. It is important, however, to plan for every scenario. As such, we have developed an alert level system that will enable us to respond quickly to rapidly evolving health conditions.

Green

Low risk: Underlying threat of outbreak remains, but virus prevalence is low

To Do:

- > Continue with engineering controls – signs, cleaning, space layout
- > Continue with new social norms, etc. – wear mask when indoors except with “household/bubble” or eating/drinking; maintain a 6-foot distance; wash hands; wear masks outside when 6 feet cannot be maintained
- > Capacity for rooms limited to 50%
- > Gatherings of 50 people maximum (if state guidelines change and permissible gathering size is increased, consider increasing limit if Green for > 3 weeks)
- > Blended in-person and online instruction models to reduce density
- > Public campaign regarding community “rules”
- > Visitors allowed in residence halls and apartments in accordance with [RIT Safety Plan](#) requirements

Yellow

Low-Moderate risk: Prevalence of virus is low, but indicators show potential for increase in transmission

To Do:

- > Enhanced public campaign regarding community “rules”
- > If “cluster” identified, halt that activity and/or address hygiene/cleaning protocols
- > Gatherings limited to 25 people
- > Determine need for targeted testing

To Consider (particularly if > 2 weeks at risk level)

- > Capacity for non-instructional spaces limited to 25%
- > Non-instructional gatherings limited to 10 people
- > Halt activities that require physical distancing of 10 feet
- > Prohibit all social visitors to dorms, campus

Orange

Moderate risk: Prevalence has increased above baseline and indicators show rates of infection increasing

To Do:

- > Step up enforcement of physical distancing and face mask requirements
- > Capacity for non-instructional spaces limited to 25%
- > Non-instructional gatherings limited to 10 people
- > Prohibit all social visitors to dorms, campus
- > Close Red Barn, Student Life Center, and other areas of congregation
- > Research stalls – wrap up in progress, limit personnel in lab
- > Shift all staff to remote except for those required on campus to provide key student services and in-person classes
- > If “cluster” is identified, halt that activity and/or address hygiene/cleaning protocols

To Consider (particularly if > 1 week at risk level)

- > Cancel all in-person co-curricular activities
- > Blended classes shift to fully online
- > Suspend RIT shuttles
- > Evaluate athletics for possible suspension
- > Prohibit all visitors to campus except necessary deliveries
- > Dining shifts to carry out only
- > Start preparations for campus depopulation

Red

High risk: Spike in prevalence, hospital capacity strained

Implement depopulation of campus/remote operations, except essential on-campus employees to support students remaining on campus, and move all classes to online format within 7 days of Red level announcement

Indicators that will be used to determine alert level

We will be monitoring indicators daily and looking at 3-day trends, which will enable us to dynamically respond with appropriate mitigation responses. The Associate Vice President for Wellness and the Medical Director will be responsible for reviewing the indicators and advising the President on mitigation strategies and alert levels.

Indicators at RIT

- > Daily Screening compliance
- > Daily symptom positivity
- > # positive case/7 days
- > % tests positive
- > Isolation/quarantine capacity
- > Wastewater trend
- > Observation re PPE use
- > Testing capacity

County/Region Indicators

- > Hospital capacity
- > ICU capacity
- > # cases; rate of rise
- > % of positive test results
- > Wastewater indicators (pending)
- > Testing capacity

In the event that RIT reaches an alert level of red, or as directed by state or local officials, after all other mitigation strategies have been deployed, RIT will move quickly to ramp down in-person activities, move classes online, and send students home where possible. Detailed procedures have been developed based on lessons learned from the shift to remote operations in March. They include: staff and departmental responsibilities in assisting the move-out process, communication plans, an exemption process, and transportation needs.

Academics and Research



The actions outlined below are an overview of much more detailed plans developed by the Academic Planning Committee. The [Academic Affairs Reopen Plan](#) also contains information relating to graduate education, international students, career services, and student employment.

Course Delivery

Course instruction will be delivered using three modalities: in person, blended, and online.

In Person: Traditional course delivery mode. Instruction delivered fully in the classroom/lab/studio with interaction between the instructor and student. Students must be able to attend scheduled course meetings on campus.

Blended: Combines online instruction and in-person meetings. Blended courses have fewer in-person course meetings, but enrolled students must attend scheduled course meetings on campus.

Blended A/B: Delivered in person and online simultaneously. Faculty will split students into smaller groups for in-person sessions. Attendance at in-person meetings is required and the criteria for attendance will be clearly outlined by the instructor.

Online: A course delivered entirely online. No in-person class meetings are required. Students in an online synchronous class attend class at a specified day and time. Students in an online asynchronous class complete work within a designated time period.

- > Additional sections have been added to a number of classes to reduce occupancy and allow for proper physical distancing.
- > Classes may also be scheduled on evenings and weekends.
- > Students can consult SIS for information about their course schedule.

Classrooms/Labs/Studio Spaces and Technology

- > Occupancy capacity of each instructional space revised to ensure physical distancing requirements are met
- > University-managed classrooms outfitted with technology to facilitate teaching and learning in different modalities

- > Plexiglas barriers installed at the front of most classrooms
- > Students will be assigned seats in the classrooms in order to support contact tracing in the event a student or faculty member tests positive
- > Students, faculty, and staff will have access to sanitation products (antimicrobial) in the classroom to reduce virus transmission. All occupants are expected to clean their spaces before and after use.
- > Additional safety measures in place to protect students enrolled in interactive and experiential labs, studios, and other programs requiring close proximity to other people. Measures include, but are not limited to, reduction of class sizes, the installation of shields between workspaces, and use of enhanced PPE.

Library

Library services will be available during the fall semester but access will be limited to ensure safe operation. The following resources and practices will be in place:

- > Plexiglas barriers installed at circulation desks
- > 6-foot distance spacing marked at circulation desks and copiers
- > Reduced seating to ensure physical distance
- > Library instruction and reference consultations conducted virtually
- > Access to Special Collections and the RIT Press by appointment only
- > All returned materials and InterLibrary Loan items quarantined for 3-day minimum
- > Increased access to streaming media and electronic materials
- > Procedures implemented for staff and student employees to adjust work times on campus to ensure that high-occupancy office spaces have a safe number of employees, and 50% occupancy limit for the building is followed

Advising/Tutoring/Office Hours

All academic support services offices that directly serve faculty and staff will have staff available on campus.

- > Most academic support services, including meetings with academic advisors, faculty office hours, and tutoring will take place via remote means. However, in-person appointments will be available upon request.

Research

Research laboratories and other faculty-led facilities for scholarship and creative activity will operate.

- > All facilities must complete a plan for safe reopening that follows policies and procedures established in accordance with state guidance for the resumption of laboratory activities. This includes checklists that must be completed by the appropriate lab and facilities managers, to ensure safe resumption of research activities.
- > Procedures have been developed for safe ramp-down of laboratories in the event that another full or partial shutdown becomes necessary, including:
- > Checklists for safe closure of labs to ensure equipment is shut down, cleaned, samples safely stored, and waste properly disposed
- > Identified critical maintenance procedures necessary to maintain safety or long-term viability (e.g., care of living organisms; preservation of materials requiring special storage; and maintenance of critical equipment with regular monitoring requirements)
- > Identified staff needed to maintain critical operations

Campus Life



Activities, Meetings, and Events

Many events and activities, including annual events like Fall Fest, Activities Fair, Into the ROC, and the College Activities Board movie series, will take place throughout the academic year. The format, however, may look different than in previous years in order to ensure the safety of the RIT community.

- > More events will be held outside.
- > All safety requirements outlined in this plan must be maintained during events and activities.
- > Scheduling of events shall utilize the existing Event Management System process and will be required to have a site safety monitor and an event safety plan that complies with all RIT safety requirements.
- > Indoor meetings and events shall not exceed the maximum occupancy limits for the applicable space, and in no case exceed 50 people.
- > Use of tele- or video-conferencing is encouraged for meetings.

Communication

Timely and accurate communication is central to the success of our plan. The latest information on reopening plans, health and safety best practices, FAQs, and other pandemic-related information can be found at rit.edu/ready. For further questions, RIT has established a Call Center: 585-475-3500 or 1-833-323-0002.

- > A weekly **RIT Ready e-newsletter**, sent out every Monday, will focus on all things related to fall semester planning and the pandemic, including information related to known prevalence of confirmed cases on campus
- > Mandatory training for faculty, staff, and students must be completed before returning to campus
- > Regular communication and collaboration with county health officials
- > Public health education campaign including videos and signage
- > A communication will be sent out any time the campus alert level changes with details outlining the steps that will be taken
- > RIT social media accounts will also be used to disseminate information. Our social media directory can be found here: <https://www.rit.edu/socialmedia/>.

Dining Services

RIT has utilized New York State's Guidance for Restaurant and Retail establishments. While there will be some operational changes, dining customers can expect a variety of high-quality food when they visit our dining facilities. The following measures are being implemented:

Enhanced cleaning and hygiene protocols:

- > Adherence to NYS Department of Health's rigorous cleaning and sanitation requirements for food service operations
- > Utilization of a peroxide disinfectant that kills the virus in 45 seconds
- > All tables and chairs cleaned between customers
- > Increased frequency of cleaning other high-touch surfaces
- > Elimination of self-service stations such as salad bars, coffee and other beverages (options will still be available but they will not be self-serve)

Maintaining distance and face masks:

- > Tables placed at a distance of at least 6 feet apart
- > Occupancy limited to no more than 50% of rated occupancy
- > Designated entrance and exit in dining operations
- > Protective shields at serving stations and registers
- > Outdoor seating available at select locations; additional outdoor seating being explored
- > Acceptable face mask worn by all employees
- > Customers must wear an acceptable face mask at all times other than while eating
- > Mobile ordering and contactless payment available
- > Increased carryout options available
- > Meal support provided for on-campus students in isolation or quarantine

Intercollegiate Athletics

NCAA, state, and local governance guidelines will influence our ability to conduct fall athletic competitions. We are working with our athletic conferences – Liberty, the Atlantic Hockey Association, College Hockey America, and the Empire Collegiate Wrestling – to identify schedules and safety protocols to safely resume competitive sports. As part of RIT's return to competition, in addition to satisfying campus plans, we will abide by the NCAA Core principles of resocialization of collegiate sport.

Student athletes

- > Complete a medical history, undergo a pre-participation screening process and an educational unit relative to COVID-19 prior to returning to campus
- > Comply with any requirements set by the league or conference, including requirements of the NCAA, and state and local laws
- > Complete a mandatory daily health screening assessment as provided elsewhere in this plan
- > Wear acceptable face masks at all times (except where activity contraindicated)
- > Bring their own bottle (no sharing of personal items)

Operations, Practices, and Games

- > Site safety monitor designated by Office of Intercollegiate Athletics responsible for ensuring compliance with plans, receiving and attesting to having reviewed all screening questionnaires and documenting and adherence to daily symptom checking

- > In-person gatherings (e.g., team meetings, coaching de-briefs) limited as much as possible and encouraged to be done via remote means
- > Only individual workouts permitted at facilities for out-of-season athletes; group practices (e.g., scrimmages, pick-up games) prohibited
- > Athletics facilities cleaned no fewer than two times daily. Sanitization after use of equipment and after group or team use will be required before the room is turned over.
- > Athletics schedules reduced in number and restricted primarily to day trips (limited overnight hotel stays)
- > Spectators at athletic events limited by state, university, and league requirements. Spectators limited to parents and students when permitted. Physical distancing and face mask requirements adhered to.

Fitness Facilities

Fitness centers have not yet been approved by the State to reopen. As a result, RIT indoor recreational facilities are closed until further notice, and indoor activities are not permitted. When approval is given, RIT fitness facilities will reopen in accordance with State guidelines.

Outdoor Activities, Intramural and Club Sports

Individual sports and activities are separated into low-, medium-, and high-risk categories by the State of New York. Low- and medium-risk sports may take place outdoors. However, club sports and intramural competitive tournaments requiring travel are prohibited until further notice.

- > Indoor club and intramural sports are not permitted at this time.
- > Participants must ensure a minimum physical distance of 6 feet is maintained for activities occurring outdoors.
- > If the core activity is outdoors and a physical distance of 6 feet cannot be maintained, face masks must be worn.
- > Activities should be modified to allow for maximum physical distancing, particularly for field exercises, drills, and other practice activities.
- > Sharing of equipment is strongly discouraged unless it is cleaned and disinfected between use, and physical contact (e.g., handshakes, high fives, fist bumps) is strongly discouraged.

Residential Living

- > All multiple-person rooms in the residence halls and apartments are assigned as no more than double rooms.
- > Students in their dorm rooms or apartments do not need to comply with the physical distancing or face covering requirements when alone, or when in the presence of their room/suitemates. If anyone other than a room/suitemate is present, everyone must wear a face mask and maintain proper distance.
- > Lounges open, but limited to no more than 50% of normal capacity. Physical distancing and face mask requirements apply in these spaces.
- > When permitted, guests are limited to RIT students only.
- > Guests must abide by the requirements of this plan.
- > No more than one guest per resident at any time.
 - Physical distancing and maximum occupancy requirements shall be maintained throughout the guest visit. In the event that physical distancing and maximum occupancy requirements are not maintained, the guest shall leave.

- Any guest in the room/apartment must be agreed upon by room/suitemates. Otherwise, visit must happen in a common area (lounge) of the residence hall, or in a private bedroom (one guest is allowed in a private bedroom for a maximum occupancy not to exceed two).
- RIT will monitor building capacities. If guest numbers exceed what is allowable, RIT will follow up with residents and provide additional education. If the issue persists, those responsible may lose guest privileges.
- Personal aides, nurses, caregivers, or any other reasonable accommodations provided to students with disabilities shall not be considered guests for purposes of this section.

Student Health

COVID-19 has altered many facets of life for members of the RIT community. These changes can take a toll on our emotional well-being and may result in stress, fear, and/or anxiety. Please be aware that the following resources and services are available to support you:

[Counseling and Psychological Services](#)

[Student Health Center](#)

[Resources | Spirituality & Religious Life | RIT](#)

[NYS COVID-19 crisis line \(1-888-364-3065\)](#)

[Mental Health and Coping During COVID-19 | CDC](#)

- > Telehealth is preferred for office visits when an in-person exam is not needed
- > In health center:
 - Plexiglas barriers installed in reception areas
 - Waiting rooms configured to allow physical distancing
 - Appointment times staggered to reduce overall occupancy
- > Patients and staff required to wear face coverings for in-person treatment

Transportation

RIT Shuttles

- > Ridership of campus shuttles will be limited to 50% of maximum capacity and no standing will be allowed. Once a bus is full, it will not stop for additional passengers.
- > Frequency of service will be increased to make up for the reduced capacity allowed on the shuttles.
- > Plexiglas shields have been installed by the driver seat and drivers will be wearing PPE.
- > All riders will be required to wear a face mask while on RIT shuttles.
- > Signage will be posted on the shuttles reminding riders of proper safety procedures.
- > Boarding and exiting will be done through the rear shuttle doors (except where accessibility issues require otherwise).
- > Riders must scan a QR code when boarding the bus to assist with contact tracing.
- > Buses will be disinfected nightly.

RIT Vehicles (including multi-passenger vans)

- > Vehicles must be disinfected before and after each use.
- > If there is more than one person in the vehicle, face masks must be worn.
- > For multi-passenger vans, a passenger list must be provided when the vehicle is returned.

Fall Calendar



August 3

First-year student registration

August 12-18

Move-in (each on-campus student will be given a specific move-in time)

August 12-23

New Student Orientation (staggered by cohort)

August 19

Classes start

August 27-30

Fall Fest

September 22-25

Virtual Career Week

October 5-9

Virtual Career Week

November 24

End of course work/Thanksgiving break

November 25

No classes. University closes at 2 p.m.

November 26-27

Thanksgiving holiday

November 30

Reading Day

December 1-8

Final exams (administered remotely)

December 11

Grades due

December 24

University closes at 2 p.m.

Fall Planning Task Force Membership

Chair:

David Munson, President

Co-Chairs:

Ellen Granberg, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Sandy Johnson, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs

Ian Mortimer, Vice President for Enrollment Management

Jim Watters, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration

Members:

Karen Barrows, Chief of Staff, President's Office

Nicole Boulais, Associate Vice President, Student Support, Programs, and Services

Gerry Buckley, President of NTID

David Burns, Vice-Chair, RIT Board of Trustees

Enid Cardinal, Senior Advisor to the President for Strategic Planning and Sustainability

Phil Castleberry, Vice President, Development and Alumni Relations

Lisa Cauda, Vice President and Secretary, President's Office

Bobby Colón, RIT General Counsel

Bob Finnerty, Associate Vice President of University Communications

Carmie Garzione, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs

Wendy Gelbard, Associate Vice President, Student Wellness

Jeff Harris, Vice-Chair, RIT Board of Trustees

Keith Jenkins, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion

John Moore, Associate Vice President for Facilities and Management Services

Jim Myers, Associate Provost for International Education and Global Programs

Ryne Raffaele, Vice President for Research

Debbie Standardi, Vice President, Community and Government Relations

Tina Sturgis, Senior Associate Registrar

John Trierweiler, Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer

Howard Ward, Associate Vice President for Auxiliary Services

John Zink, Associate Vice President, Global Risk Management Services

Academic Planning Committee

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Tina Sturgis, Senior Associate Registrar

Anne Wahl, Assistant Provost

Members:

Nicole Boulais, Associate Vice President, Student Support, Programs, and Services

Donathan Brown, Assistant Provost and Assistant Vice President for Faculty Diversity and Recruitment

Jeanne Casares, Chief Information Officer

Larry Chambers, Associate Vice President & Director, Financial Aid and Scholarships

Twyla Cummings, Associate Provost and Dean, Graduate Education

Carla Dilella, Executive Director of Housing Operations & Global Initiatives

Nita Genova, RIT Trustee

Joan Graham, Assistant Vice President, Institutional Research, Data, and Analytics

Thérèse Hannigan, Director of RIT Online

Clyde Hull, Professor, Management, SCB, Academic Senate Representative

Chris Jackson, Associate Dean, CAD

Ross Koenig, Assistant Vice President, Budget and Financial Planning Services

Donna Lange, Associate Professor, Department of Information and Computing Studies, NTID

Karen Liljequist, Senior Manager, Research and Instruction, RIT Libraries

Lynne Mazadoorian, Assistant VP, Undergraduate Student Success & Director, University Advising Office

Matthew McKay, Senior Associate Director, Events/ Major Programs

Jim Myers, Associate Provost for International Education and Global Programs

Marian Nicoletti, Director, Undergraduate Admission

Todd Pagano, Associate Dean for Teaching and Scholarship Excellence

Maria Richart, Director, Career Services and Cooperative Education

Risa Robinson, Department Head, Mechanical Engineering, KGCOE

Jen Schneider, Fram Chair, Professor, CET, Consultant on Resilience and Recovery Efforts

Kim VanGelder, RIT Trustee

Tomicka Wagstaff, AVP for Academic Access and Success

Ian Webber, Director of Teaching & Learning Services

James Yarrington, Director of Campus Planning, Design, and Construction

Infrastructure and Health Technologies Committee

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Co-Chairs:

Jeanne Casares, Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer

Joan Graham, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Research, Data, and Analytics

John Moore, Associate Vice President for Facilities and Management Services

Howard Ward, Associate Vice President for Auxiliary Services

Committee members not assigned to a subcommittee:

Dale Davis, RIT Trustee

Vicki Griffith, RIT Trustee, President, RIT Alumni Association

Infrastructure Subcommittee Members

Luke Auburn, Senior Communication Specialist, University Communications

Jeremy Babcock, Executive Director, Housing Facilities

Mike Dellefave, Senior Project Manager, FMS

Harold Fields, Director of Residence Life

Wendy Gelbard, Associate Vice President, Wellness, MD

Dave Harris, Director, Building Operation and Maintenance

Kurt Ingerick, Executive Director, Auxiliary Services

Lyn Kelly, Associate Vice President and Controller

Sarah Klein, Environmental Health and Safety Manager for FMS

Deb Kusse, Executive Director of Procurement

Catherine Lewis, Director, Disability Services

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Donna Sandlin, Director of Policies and Compliance

Derek Sylvester, Director, Building Environmental Services and Infrastructure

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Michelle Guerrieri-Poysa, Business Analyst/Consultant

Lisa Koch, Associate CIO

Kim Sowers, Director, ITS Project Management Office

Research Subcommittee

Kirk Anne, Director, Research Computing

Liz Bunce, Senior Compensation Analyst

Timothy Dailey, Strategic Sourcing Specialist III, Dining/Food

Pat Didas, Assistant Vice President for Audit, Compliance and Advisement

Carla Dilella, Executive Director of Housing Operations and Global Initiatives

Erika Duthiers, Assistant Vice President for Compliance and Ethics

Joan Graham, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Research, Data, and Analytics

Molly Johnson, Financial Reporting Analyst

Jennifer McKee, Director, Administrative Operations

Terri O'Connor, Senior Research Assistant

Denishea Ortiz, Director, Strategic Marketing and Retail Product Management

Community Readiness Committee

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Wendy Gelbard, Associate Vice President, Student Wellness, MD

Members:

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Jill Bicks, parent '24

Lindsey Bouthiette, third-year undergraduate student, wellness peer educator

Sandi Connelly, faculty member, College of Science

Shine DeHarder, fourth-year undergraduate student, President of Student Government

Carla Della, Executive Director, RIT Housing

Zena Dorsey, community member

Patrick Edwards, third-year undergraduate student

Joe Johnston, Ombuds

Elizabeth Kronfeld, faculty member, College of Art and Design

James Macchiano, Director of Multicultural Center for Academic Success

Ally Mead, parent '22

Sharon Napier, RIT Trustee

Chi Nguyen, Ph.D. student, international

Dan Ornt, Dean, Institute of Health Sciences and Technology, MD

Colleen Peterson, Director of Enrollment Systems and Analytics

Mandy Piccoli, Chair, Communication Studies and Services, NTID

Susan Puglia, RIT Trustee

Lucas Randrianarivelo, fifth-year undergraduate student, varsity athlete

Kory Samuels, Executive Director, RIT Dining

Christopher Tanski, alumnus '00, President's Roundtable, MD, Upstate Medical University

Dean Trivisani, parent '20, president of Medical Technologies

George Zion, faculty member, College of Engineering Technology