

Appendix 5: Measuring the Prevalence of COVID-19 Among Students Already in Ithaca and Those Returning to Off-campus Housing

Students returning to off-campus housing have much more autonomy over when they return; however, they too need to be tested prior to the start of the academic year. Students who are already in Ithaca should ideally be tested prior to the arrival of returning students so that more accurate baseline prevalence can be established. Historically, the university has not overseen any aspects of students' return to off-campus housing, and the availability of accurate information about where students live, and their local contact information has been dependent on students' willingness to update this information in student essentials. For the 2020-2021 academic year, having an up-to-date registry of students' local addresses, contact information (cell phone number), and emergency contacts (parents or guardian and at least one close friend or roommate) will be essential, and all students who are in Ithaca – whether in on- or off-campus housing – will be required to participate in our testing program and follow our re-entry requirements.

Over the summer, a series of re-entry registration check-ins with students will be needed to develop an accurate list of the students who will be returning to off-campus housing in Ithaca or have already returned. A series of gating mechanisms should be put in place to ensure that students register their local presence and address and are tested (and quarantined if necessary) in a timely manner.

Recommended Implementation next steps:

- Develop a timeline for summer check-in with students that is coordinated with key steps they will need to complete for enrolling in fall courses; this coordination will create the necessary “friction” to ensure compliance. Key steps may include: (1) reporting whether they are currently in Ithaca (and then being tested if they are) prior to being given access to the revised course roster; (2) publishing the revised course roster so that students can make final decisions about their plan for the fall depending on the modality (in-person, hybrid, online) of the courses in which they intend to enroll; (3) a follow-up check-in with students to capture any changes in intentions to return to Ithaca and/or students who have returned to Ithaca since step #1 and need to be tested, with clear guidance that students who fail to provide updates and be tested as appropriate will be blocked from pre-enrolling in courses; (4) after students pre-enroll in courses, we will be able to detect students who have registered for in-person or online courses but have not yet reported intentions to return to off-campus housing; and (5) students who have not yet returned to Ithaca will be asked to register their intended arrival data and mode of transportation and be given instructions on where to get tested immediately upon arrival. Throughout this process, students will receive clear communication about why it is essential that they be tested and warned that failure to comply will result in their NetID access to Canvas courses being blocked.
- An important consideration will be clearly differentiating between students who will be participating in remote instruction from a location outside of the Ithaca area and therefore are not expected to follow our testing protocols.