

Taylor Together, Again

(Let's Stay Together – January and Spring 2021)

“God has not given us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love, and a sound mind” (2 Tim 1:7).

Fulfilling Our Mission:

Taylor University is committed to providing a liberal arts education, grounded in our common Christian faith, and oriented toward the development of the whole person. Our primary mode of fulfilling our academic mission is through *intentional community*, developed through face-to-face encounters in the classroom, living spaces, chapel services, and co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Our plan is to continue as much of this in-person engagement as possible, while complying with applicable federal, state, and public health guidelines for COVID-19.

Expertise and Leadership:

The “Taylor Together, *Again*” plan is being led by an internal group (the “PeRT team” — “Pandemic Re-opening Team”). We consult regularly with external experts and rely on guidance from a variety of relevant professional organizations. The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) has been advancing and revising the plan regularly since early March 2020.

Internal PeRT Team (Pandemic Re-opening Team)

Academic Program

Michael Hammond (SLT)
Grace Miller (Dean)
Tom Jones (Dean)

Facilities and Campus Safety

Ron Sutherland (SLT)
Gregg Holloway (Facilities Services)
Jeff Wallace (Chief of Police)

Dining Services, Employees

Stephen Olson (SLT)
Nathaniel Malone consulted with the group (Creative Dining)

Student Development and Residence Life

Skip Trudeau (SLT)
Jesse Brown (Residence Life)
Kyle Gould (Athletics)

Student Onboarding and Enrollment

Christa Siegelin (Admissions)

Rob Linehan (Information Technology)

Medical Advice

Dr. Stephen Phillips

Other Authorities. We have been monitoring the following agencies in order to try and stay abreast of issues related to COVID-19:

- The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (Note: The CDC advised institutions of higher education to comply with their state guidelines and local public health authorities.)
- The American Public Health Association (APHA)
- The World Health Organization (WHO)

External Guidance & Consultants

- Coalition of Independent Colleges
- Consortium of Christian Colleges & Universities
- Independent Colleges of Indiana
- NAIA
- Crossroads League
- Medical researchers
- Legal counsel
- Medicine (vaccinology)
- Industrial health and safety guidelines
- “Back on Track” Indiana guidelines
- Indiana State Health Department, Commissioner Dr. Kristina Box
- Grant County public health officer, Dr. David Moore

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has been meeting frequently since the pandemic broke out. They have had extensive discussion and review of the re-opening plans. On July 13, 2020 the Board of Trustees approved this Taylor Together, *Again* plan and our implementation steps.

Return-to-Operations Model

The Council for Christian Colleges & Universities sponsored “*An Essential Model for Reopening Campuses*,” a return-to-operations model developed by Dr. Colin Coyne, Chief Strategy Officer for Samford University. The Office of Institutional Research at Taylor University applied the model to our situation and determined that given our unique set of circumstances, Taylor could safely re-open for Fall 2020.

TAYLOR UNIVERSITY COVID-19 PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

As the Life Together Covenant reminds us, we are joining together in “intentional, voluntary fellowship, aware that we are called to live our lives before a watching world.” While we recognize that we have freedom in Christ, we also know that “our freedom is best used when we serve one another in love.” In this voluntary fellowship, we acknowledge that “we are dependent on and accountable to one another.”

Care for Others. Jesus calls us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love others as ourselves. Scripture tells us, and the Taylor University Life Together Covenant reminds us that we are to live in a community that places the ‘one another’s’ of Scripture at a very high level in our daily lives. Thus, caring for one another is a major theme of our response to this issue. However, we must also avoid the risk of trying to make one planning assumption or step taken as a test of our spiritual condition. Rather, these scriptures guide our thinking in terms of being willing to take on these additional measures in support of our community.

Not Mixing Politics and Safety. We recognize that some elements in the broader culture have politicized the implications of the pandemic, especially with regard to the wearing of masks. We implore all members of the Taylor community not to allow their own political perspectives to take precedence over the safety of the larger community. For the good of one another and of the entire community, each member of the Taylor community is expected to comply with the guidelines contained in this re-opening plan.

Risk versus Fear. Each day we live, we are confronted with the challenges of balancing risks. COVID-19 has heightened this awareness. Our intent is to try and avoid succumbing to fear as a motivator in our planning and instead focus on the best way to reduce the various risks that COVID-19 presents for the different members of our community, our town, and our county. While beginning with a healthy campus is an essential aspect of risk *management*, reducing the risk of introducing contagion is an essential element of risk *mitigation*. This plan is intended to promote both of these goals.

Need for Flexibility:

As much as we wish to resume campus life as it has been prior to the pandemic, that is not possible. Information changes frequently about the spread of the coronavirus, guidelines for protecting health and safety, and progress in developing effective therapies and vaccines. Care for our student population presents one set of concerns, while caring well for our employees, who generally are at higher risk of contracting the disease, raises other concerns.

The plan will be updated from time to time as situations and conditions warrant. Students, faculty, and staff may see things that SLT and PeRT have missed, and suggest *meaningful improvements*. We welcome your input (PeRT@taylor.edu). We must all remain flexible and able to adapt as the plan is updated in light of current information, guidance, and data.

COVID-19 Facts / Assumptions:

Age-related deaths. Statistics indicate that the student population (18-24) is one of the least impacted by contracting COVID-19. To illustrate, of the 112,226 deaths related to COVID-19 in the US through July

4, 2020, only 142 occurred in the 15-24 age group (CDC); over 44,000 were among people ages 35-74 [[CDC, July 8, 2020](#)]. Older employees and those with underlying health conditions at Taylor University are much more likely to be impacted by COVID-19 and as such remain a critical focus of care in our community.

Regardless of the statistics, our focus will be on providing for the safety of our students and employees in ways that are currently thought to reduce the risk of infecting or spreading the disease.

What we know now:

- The virus that causes COVID-19 can spread from person to person, mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- Interacting with more people is riskier than fewer people.
- Spending more time in close proximity, particularly indoors, increases risks of transmission.
- Outside events present a lower risk than inside events.
- Travel may increase the risk of contagion and transmission.
- Asymptomatic people may test positive for COVID-19.
- COVID-19 has affected some racial and ethnic groups more than others.
- The incubation period may range from 2-10 days, so we need to exercise care not to spread the disease until the person tests negative for COVID-19.
- Asymptomatic people can spread the disease.

What we don't know:

- Whether the presence of antibodies means that a person cannot be re-infected, or for how long they might be immune. Based on medical advice we are assuming someone who has had the virus within the last 90 days are not needing to quarantine if they come in close contact with someone else with the virus.
- Whether in addition to spread of COVID-19 by droplets, it can be aerosolized.
- When, or if, we can reach herd immunity.
- How many people have died of the virus without being tested (skewing the death rate).

Definitions:

Quarantine. Expected of those who are pre-symptomatic (showing COVID signs but waiting for a diagnosis or positive test) Also expected of those who have been exposed to COVID-19 or have been in contact with someone who is confirmed positive for COVID-19, stay at home under strict guidelines.

Isolation. A person who tests positive for COVID-19 must be isolated under strict guidelines, including using a separate bathroom, if possible.

Shelter in place. A period when government officials request all residents to stay at home, leaving only for essential activities.

Re-Opening Plan Details and Guidelines

Revised Calendar:

[The Spring 2021 semester calendar](#) has been adjusted. Spring semester classes begin on campus February 1 at 8:00 am with no classes on March 5 (Spring Break Day) and April 2 (Good Friday). The last day of classes is May 7 with on campus exams May 10-13 with Commencement May 15. Our desire is to remain flexible to meet the demands of the pandemic as it moves on our campus and in our state and country.

Personal Health and Safety Expectations:



Social Distancing. Taylor University will comply with all relevant State of Indiana social distancing guidelines for institutions of higher education. Classes, performances, and athletic events are planned to observe a 6-foot distance.



(UPDATE) Masks. The current “Back on Track” plan for the State of Indiana requires face coverings. Taylor University will comply and require the use of masks by all students and employees except in the following situations (however, students and employees should feel free to also wear masks in these locations based on their personal preference):

- When socially distanced outdoors
- Individuals working in an office alone or in socially distanced spaces
- Face-to-face meetings where social distancing can be maintained
- Those with medical conditions where the use of a mask is not advised

This means that students should expect to wear facemasks (for example) during chapel services, moving about dining areas and when not eating, athletic venues, and classroom activities. More details will follow on the various impacts of this expectation. In order to assure the greatest opportunity to reduce risk of exposure, students and employees should be prepared to change and clean their masks on a regular basis. Therefore, students and employees should have a 7-day supply of face masks so they can be assured to clean them as necessary. Temporary (disposable) face masks can be purchased in the Campus Store.

This mask ordinance will remain in effect, even if the Governor of Indiana’s Executive Order is lifted, until PeRT determines we can safely achieve our goal of finishing each semester on campus.

Face Shields. Face Shields will be encouraged for those with underlying health concerns or age concerns. They may also be provided to employees in high-risk areas for additional protection. While Faculty may choose to wear shields in lieu of face masks for instructional purposes, students will be expected to continue to wear masks.

Student and Employee Viral Testing.

Our highest priority for our students is for a safe for the Spring semester on campus with in-person education.

Students

Due to the current surge in COVID cases and in the spirit of the Life Together Covenant of loving and caring for one another well, Taylor University is **strongly recommending** (not mandating) students who were not on campus for interterm of 2021, to obtain a COVID-19 test on or after January 25 2021 before returning to campus. Those results should be reported to my.taylor.edu/covidtest.

Those who have already had COVID-19 since November 1, 2020 may report their previous diagnosis and will not be required to obtain a new test.

We continue to work with our local and state health officials to review guidance for higher education and we recognize that this strong recommendation may change to a requirement in the weeks ahead.

Employees

All Taylor University on-campus employees and on-campus service partners who are returning to work for the first time since the end of the Fall Semester, are strongly recommended (not mandate) to obtain a negative test result before coming to work. These groups should seek testing 7 days before their return to campus (for any purpose) in order to leave time for results to be obtained. Those individuals having contracted COVID-19 on or after November 1, 2020 will not need a test, but should report that information to their HR department.

All

Additional testing (both randomized and comprehensive) may be needed for students and employees. Currently there are two types of diagnostic tests which detect the COVID-19 virus – molecular tests, such as RT-PCR tests, that detect the virus’s genetic material, and antigen tests that detect specific proteins on the surface of the virus. Taylor University is accepting either form of diagnostic tests for initial screening of athletes and performing arts students based on feedback from our State Health Official and athletic league approval.

Employees are expected to follow testing protocols if they have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, or if they exhibit symptoms. Checking with Student Development (students) or Human resources (Employees) for testing requirements is suggested.

Symptomatic testing for employees and students will also occur on campus as long as the test services are available.

Testing for active COVID-19 is generally covered by [health insurance plans](#), thus, the costs for these tests will be borne by the student and / or employee, and ultimately covered by their health insurance provided for them.

(UPDATE) Vaccination

A growing area of review is in the areas of Vaccination. Some students and employees have already been vaccinated due to various reasons and therefore, we continue to monitor the impact of vaccination on our plan.

Mask Wearing and Social Distancing

Those who are vaccinated are expected to observe social distancing and mask wearing.

Vaccination and Quarantine Expectations

Students and employees who are vaccinated will not be required to quarantine based on the following facts:

- Individuals must be fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)
- Those who are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series
- Those who have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure

Persons who do not meet all 3 of the above criteria should continue to follow current [quarantine guidance](#) after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.



Student and Employee Health Self-Monitoring. Students and employees will be expected to daily self-check their temperature while completing a self-health assessment. Students should plan on having a thermometer when they return to campus.

Students and employees with temperatures over 100.4 *may not* participate in class or come to work.

Students showing signs of COVID-19 symptoms must report to Student Development in order to ensure testing is completed. Any COVID-19 test results must also be reported to Student Development. Information has been provided about how to report to Student Development. Students should bring their own thermometers to improve daily self-assessment requirement. A [return to student life flow chart](#) is included in Appendix A.

Employees will be required to report to a COVID-19 Assessment Team if they develop COVID-19 symptoms and should expect to be required to complete testing with a local health center. A return to work chart is available in myTaylor [Employee COVID-19 resources](#).

Infrared thermometers will be provided in every residence hall for use as needed and in key locations on campus for employees



Student and Employee Travel / Community Interactions. We are requesting students and employees limit their travel off campus as much as possible in order to reduce the risk of bringing the virus back to campus. This is not intended to be a ban on travel locally for shopping, off-campus jobs, attending church, or engaging in academic activities (e.g. student teaching). Students are asked to take care to remain socially distanced and to wear masks according to the Indiana mask requirement in those locations. Travelling during interterm break is for essential travel.

When travelling to social events such as weddings and funerals, it is important to note that to prevent the spread of the virus, **ALL** participants at the event (not just the student or the employee) must be wearing face masks and socially distancing. If this is not the case, employees and students will be required to report back to Student Development (students) or TCAT (employees) the inability to

maintain these protocols and will be expected to go into quarantine for 10 days (or 7 days with a negative test after 5 days). Social distancing includes close touch so events involving dancing (weddings) or other events involving very close contact (funerals and weddings) will require quarantine upon completion of the event.

We strongly encourage students to avoid unnecessary community interactions off campus. When desiring to frequent local food establishments, we encourage students to pick up meals in lieu of dining in the facility.

In regards to Sunday worship, we continue to encourage students to attend churches that are offering COVID-19 safe worship experiences.

Visitors to Campus. A major risk for our campus community is the possibility of a COVID-19 contagion by a visitor to campus. Therefore, we will limit interactions with individuals in residence halls and dorms. We will work to observe social distancing as required and when most appropriate to limit the potential contact with COVID-19. As an example of a desire to limit exposure, Homecoming and Parents' Weekend has been postponed until Spring of 2021 and we will assess our ability to host that event at that time.

All visitors to campus will be expected to abide by the face mask requirements.

Meetings. Zoom or telephone meetings are preferred to face to face meetings. We would encourage meetings with individuals from off campus to be held with Zoom or telephone resources as possible. When campus community members gather, they should consider the size of gathering, location, and necessity of meeting face to face, and should follow all face masks and social distancing guidelines.

January-Term Travel. As we continue to monitor the local and global situation, as well as following the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the US State Department, we have made the difficult decision to cancel all scheduled January 2021 off-campus programs. This includes all international and domestic locations. Affected groups include our January academic programs (Footsteps of Paul, Honors, etc.) and Lighthouse programs.

Keeping our Facilities Clean and Safe:

Taylor University is implementing these measures to reduce pandemic concerns related to facilities.

Additional Disinfecting. Taylor has traditionally done a thorough cleaning and disinfecting of our facilities. Additional cleaning and disinfecting will be added on the weekends for our residence halls and high traffic areas (i.e. library commons spaces and residence hall lobbies).

However, each student and staff member will also need to take on the responsibility to disinfect spaces they use (such as the sink in community bathrooms) more frequently to achieve their own level of personal risk/care. It is not feasible to disinfect every space after each individual use which requires each of us to take seriously our part in shouldering this responsibility.

Hand sanitizers are provided at every major facility entrance.

Disinfecting materials will be available for individual use in common spaces and high traffic areas.

Plexiglass Shields. The University has assessed which areas on campus should have a barrier (“sneeze shield”) put in place to assist with situations where social distancing is not possible and the person serving the area is at greater risk. This includes customer service areas, and some areas where social distancing is not feasible. Installation of the barriers has been completed.

Air circulation. We are examining ways to reduce recirculating air in HVAC as much as possible.

Building Flow. Several of our academic facilities are full during transitional times between classes. Therefore, we will be marking a number of them for movement in one direction in order to reduce the proximity of individuals in those spaces.

Changing Normal Office Activities:

We are asking all departments to observe the following safety guidelines:

Coffee and beverages. Individuals may not share a common pot of coffee, hot water, etc.

Food. Outside food may not be brought in for department or other meetings, other than commercially wrapped items to be opened by the individual.

Campus Safety:

Campus police. Our Chief of Police is an active member of PeRT. However, it is not the duty of Campus Police alone to enforce the expectations associated with COVID-19. That is the duty of Student Development, staff, faculty, and coaches for students, and supervisors and Human Resources for employees. We expect all members of our community to continue to abide by the Life Together Covenant, as well as the heightened measures implemented to protect the health and safety of others.

The best way to have a safe and healthy community is to remind ourselves that “we are dependent on and accountable to one another” (LTC)



What happens if COVID-19 is found on Campus?

Helping Students Who Contact COVID-19.

Isolation: Students in isolation will be encouraged to safely travel home for their isolation. Those who cannot return home will be provided a space to isolate until available spaces are fully taken. Locations include:

1. Haakonsen – Current employees moved to another location for the time it is needed.
2. Former Student Union / Dome. The old bookstore space is being evaluated for conversion to residence space. Temporary showers would need to be built.
3. Ockenga Honors Lodge.
4. KSAC Activity Space.

Close Contact: All students being diagnosed with COVID-19 or who are showing symptoms of COVID-19 are expected to comply with contact tracing efforts to limit the spread of the virus. The CDC has defined close contact to be someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total

of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

Quarantine: Roommates of those who are COVID-19 positive will be quarantined due to likely close contact following Residence Life guidance.

In order to best maximize the space we have available on campus, effective 9/3/2020, we will allow asymptomatic close contacts to quarantine in their current residence hall room (students will still be asked to quarantine at home if this option is available). If students develop symptoms of COVID-19 while quarantining in their residence hall, they will be asked to move to an alternative location. Additional details have been made available to students through an email and are available on the Residence Life section of the Taylor University COVID-19 website.

Quarantine will not be required for someone who is within 90 days of previously testing positive for COVID-19. An individual would need to demonstrate proof of a previous test(s) and must still follow the reporting requirements of symptoms and close contacts.

Helping Employees Who Contact COVID-19. Employees will be required to self-quarantine / isolate at home, if they or someone in their household tests positive for COVID-19.

Re-Closing Campus. If a widespread occurrence of the COVID-19 virus happens, we will again be ready to shift to virtual education and make determinations about housing and other decisions as needed.

Campus Programs:

Each part of the University has submitted a specific program plan that informs and supports this overall plan. These individual program plans have been drafted in accordance with a format suggested by the Independent Colleges of Indiana. At the present time, the PeRT team is monitoring plans on file by each of these areas of the University:

- Academics
- Admissions
- Athletics
- Chapel
- Information Technology
- Student Life

Copies of these supporting plans are available by request. Significant aspects of these plans are discussed below.



Academic Program

Academic Discipleship. Discipling our student's mind is the heart of our educational mission. Thus, we are taking care in developing a plan that will allow our discipleship to continue at the highest levels.

Current expectations include:

- A standard clause for syllabi is announces the COVID-19 expectations for students.
- We expect the use of masks. However, students and faculty each need to be aware that there may be certain circumstances that require flexibility in implementing this plan in order to achieve academic objectives.
- We apply social distancing guidelines in the classroom in the following ways:
 - Separating desks by six feet when possible.
 - Alternating attendance in some classes to reduce the number in attendance for any one day.
 - We provide video support and recording of classes in order to assist those whose attendance is limited due to social distancing or illness.
- Some faculty with vulnerable conditions may choose (and are being encouraged) to deliver their materials in new and unique ways in order to protect themselves or their family members.
- Field Trips will be extremely limited. Those that are considered essential to course objectives must be submitted to department chairs and the academic dean for approval.
- Student Teachers will need to abide by Taylor University and their local school system's requirements.
- A very limited set of study abroad programs for Spring 2021 were allowed.



Performing Arts

- We are planning to have music and theater performances. Plans are being developed to follow specialized guidelines for these rehearsals and performances.
- Any productions held in Mitchell will have smaller audiences, allowing people who live in the same household to sit together, and following distancing recommendations. Hand sanitizer was provided and entrances and exits are limited.
- A plan has been developed with Facilities for a cleaning schedule after each performance.
- Further discussion will take place with Film & Media partners to determine if filming could be an option to allow the productions to be watched online.

Student Development

One of the hallmarks of a Taylor education is the value we place on the academic experience and the powerful effect that learning outside of the classroom can have on our students as they mature in their faith and their discipline. The following plans have been put in place to guide our student's development outside of the classroom.

Returning To Campus Weekends

Please observe the following guidelines when returning to campus:

- Please plan to wear masks when you are indoors on campus or unable to socially distance outside. Masks will be required around campus throughout the semester, but with a number of extra visitors on campus during welcome weekend, they are of particular importance.
- Prior to your arrival, please be keep an eye on any potential symptoms or exposure to COVID – 19. This includes both new students and those bringing you. Do not come to campus if you are sick or believe you may have been in contact in the last 14 days with someone who is positive for COVID-19. If you cannot come on time, please contact Lisa Wallace (lswallace@taylor.edu) to let us know.
- At this time, we are not limiting the number of individuals you can bring with you to campus, but we do ask that you do not bring people with you who don't need to be here.

Kesler Student Activities Center

'The Well' - Following the advice of professionals in this area, we allocated up to 50 visitors at a time in the well. We will be initiating hourly check-in's and monitoring the number of participants. Participation will be on a first come first serve basis. Specific hours are available for faculty and staff apart from students (6-8AM) and (11:00 - 1:00PM). These committee faculty/staff (and adult family members) times are for faculty and staff only, not faculty and staff family members. Two cleaning times will be added (9:00-10:00AM, and 3:00 – 4:00 PM), Community members will not have access at the current time.

The Activity Center – Indoor courts and walking track will not be available at this time except for academic classes and athletic department needs.

Hours are listed online and at the KSAC for your review.



Residence Halls

Students living together on a wing or floor are considered a “home unit.” The goal is to achieve the same level of safety that you would experience at home. Family members exercise precautions such as wearing a mask when they leave home, but are not expected to do so “at home.”

- We do not have the capacity to offer *individual room assignments* given that our campus is designed to house all of our students with a roommate and we have very few empty rooms.
- *Bathroom Usage.* Community bathrooms are open only to the “home unit,” that is, students who live on that floor or wing. All other students must use the lobby bathroom.
- Off-campus visitors are not permitted on the floor or wing. Special exceptions may be granted for some visitors. Please check with admissions or your hall director. In no case are they permitted to stay overnight or use the floor bathroom.
- *Open house hours* are suspended until further notice.
- Larger groups are permitted to meet in common spaces, but only if they wear masks and observe social distancing.

- *Meetings with Hall Directors.* Masks will be needed when social distancing is not possible or when any party prefers masks be utilized.
- Shared Kitchen supplies will not be available for check out from Residence Hall front desks. Students should bring the kitchen supplies that they anticipate needing.



Chapel

The chapel experience is the heart of our community worship and spiritual development. The Campus Pastor has been working through how to best provide this uniquely formative experience to our students.

We currently plan to:

- Divide the campus student community into groups with days assigned for their in-person participation in sizes sufficient to stay with county regulations. Those not able to attend will have virtual options for attending chapel.
- Masks are required.
- Social distancing is expected in Rediger and the other locations.
- Alternative locations re provided for those with concerns or special health needs.
- Singing is allowed with masks.
- Faculty and staff are assigned a regular day to attend chapel. They are encouraged to attend chapel virtually on the other days.

Counseling

Plans are under way to help prepare the counseling services to be done in a safe and risk adverse way.

Student Activities

We continue to make plans for how to accomplish the host of student activities on campus each year. Each one will be evaluated in light of feasibility of complying with health and safety guidelines.

This is an aspect of our life together where students' creative ideas can flourish. We welcome your suggestions for meaningful improvements.

- *Intramural sports.* Intramural activities will be permitted if they can be done safely.



Athletics

We are following NAIA, Crossroads League, and Mid-States Football Association guidelines:

- NAIA has postponed Fall 2020 Championships to Spring 2021, including football.
- The Crossroads League will proceed with fall sports through conference tournament.
- The Mid-States Football Association has moved the conference schedule to Spring 2021.
- Our athletic trainers are taking steps to assure continued safety of our coaches, trainers, and athletes who choose to compete.
- Coaches, trainers, and student athletes will have their temperature checked every day as well as be reminded to complete their health self-assessment each day.
- Plans are underway to establish a standard for return to competition for student athletes that have COVID-19 isolation or quarantine requirements.

Fan Attendance Policy:

Total participants and crowds at all home TU athletic events will be limited based on the following Grant county stages:

Red: Limited to the same sizes as orange but only high school age or older family members will be allowed.

Orange or less: Limited to 500 individuals outdoors and 250 individuals indoors per current state mandates and size of space available to provide for social distancing. Those numbers include members of the competing teams, officials and game day staff.

Parents of student-athletes on the Taylor team will be allowed to attend based on a tickets allotment system of four per athlete (high school age and older). Tickets will be set aside and available in advance and on request for TU faculty and staff. The remaining tickets will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis at each event for Taylor students with ID and there will be no charge for entry.

No tickets will be available for fans, parents, or faculty and staff of visiting teams.

All fans in attendance will be required to follow the current social distancing and mask guidelines in place from the National Centers of Disease and Control, state and local health agencies and Taylor University.

Masks will be required for all fans in attendance at indoor events, as well as for fans unable to socially distance at outdoor events. Attendees not adhering to these guidelines will be asked to leave the competition.

Any fans unable to attend a home TU athletic event are encouraged to watch the live HD webcast streamed by the Trojan Sports Network on [YouTube.com/TaylorAthletics](https://www.youtube.com/TaylorAthletics). Fans can also follow Taylor on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) at TaylorTrojans and subscribe to [TaylorTrojans.com](https://www.taylor-trojans.com) for all of the latest updates.

Fans interested in attending road competitions are encouraged to check the host school's website for crowd protocols at that specific institution.



Dining and Food Services.

Creative Dining, our food service provider, serves many college campuses nationally. They have been an excellent partner in providing thoughtful planning for our students to return to campus when we re-open. In Indiana, the Dining Commons and Boren Center are under the same guidance as local restaurants. They continue to monitor the situation and wait for updates and interactions with our local health board.

Dining and food services will be provided as follows.

- We do not have any self-serve locations. Local health board standards for food safety require that all food must be served.
- Appropriate serving protections re in place.
- Steps are taken to speed service including a “grab-and-go” option.
- Masks are required in dining venues except while eating.
- Outdoor venues are being considered to assist with social distancing during good weather.
- Outside visitors including outside catered events are not be allowed within our dining spaces to help protect our students and employees.
- A socially distanced section will be provided for faculty, staff, and students with particular health or medical needs.

Enrollment

- Hosting on-campus prospective students and families is a vital business operation for the future of Taylor. Visitors follow all safety precautions and restrictions, including self-assessments.
- Admissions resumed on-campus visits as of July 6, 2020 and will continue virtual visit options.
- On-campus visits are personalized and limit interaction with other families and the Taylor community, with a mix of in-person and virtual meetings.
- No visiting students will stay overnight in current student rooms.

Eating in the Classroom/Class Schedule Conflicts

- Eating in the classroom is reserved for those with schedule conflicts only (back-to-back classes during mealtimes).
- Faculty must give permission for eating in the classroom, so we encourage students to discuss their schedule conflict with the class they intend to bring in their food to obtain permission.
- Students should try and sit towards the back of the room.
- Students should be wearing a mask up until the time they eat and as soon as finished.
- Students should be prepared to disinfect their area when finished eating with minimal disruption to the class.

Contingency Plans

Taylor University is taking very seriously our need to care for our students and employees during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Pandemic Response Team (PeRT) has been meeting regularly to discuss needs as they arise and to construct the Taylor Together, Again plan. PeRT will continue to meet in order to monitor all matters related to COVID-19 nationally, regionally and on our campus, and to continue to adjust the plan as needed.

Taylor University is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and is prepared should increased rates of positive cases require additional quarantine and self-isolation. The available options for our campus include:

- Working with those students who find themselves in quarantine to continue course work
- Proactively structuring courses with options for hybrid and virtual learning on campus
- Moving temporarily to virtual course instruction while remaining on campus
- Moving to a virtual learning semester and closing campus with most students returning home (where possible).

We have discussed various scenarios where each of the above options may be applied. Given the multiple paths / directions that the virus can take, we believe we can be ready to shift to any of these options on short notice. Our faculty have been advised that movements throughout these stages may be necessary and to plan for their instruction to be delivered in multiple ways depending on our decision.

Factors we will consider when looking at which scenarios to implement:

- Rate of quarantine and self-isolation due to close contact or exposure to COVID-19 positive cases
- Number of student COVID-19 positive cases reported, and the illness associated with each
- Number of faculty and employee COVID-19 cases reported, and the illness associated with each
- Impact of the illness on classroom teaching
- Movement of the virus in our county and state.
- State or national mandates.

Making Taylor Together, *Again* Even Better

Taylor University is a living, learning, and loving community. We are in this together. If you have ideas or suggestions for meaningful improvement, please let us know: PeRT@taylor.edu

In the meantime, let us recommit ourselves to building up one another, to make allowances and respect each other, and *“clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience”* (Col. 3:12).

Last Updated: February 12, 2021

Appendix A

View this document at taylor.edu/returntocampus

