

Binghamton University Fall 2020 Semester Exit Plan

Overview: The campus will end in-person instruction at the Thanksgiving holiday break, though the semester will continue into December in a fully remote mode. The three days prior to the official start of the break (i.e. Sun-Tues Nov 22-24) are reserved for faculty wishing to hold in-person examinations and there are no classes scheduled. We expect the vast majority of those students who do not have permanent local residences to leave the Greater Binghamton area for the Thanksgiving holiday period. We also expect that students will depart the area over several days based upon the nature of the academic calendar as more fully detailed below. The plan design reflects those realities and is intended to capture students into our testing regime prior to their departure. The campus exit plan has the following elements:

- a. The mass-testing of those students likely to leave Greater Binghamton during the two-week period prior to the end of in-person classes. The testing schedule is designed to test students at a point in time most likely to coincide with their likely departure dates based upon the in-person academic schedule.
- b. Close coordination with the Broome County Department of Health with reference to testing, contact tracing, quarantine and isolation practices leading into the Thanksgiving break.
- c. The gradual wind-down of in-person extracurricular activities leading into the Thanksgiving break.
- d. On and off-campus enforcement efforts to prevent large gatherings.
- e. A communications plan to support all of the above and social norm around safe behaviors prior to the Thanksgiving break.

1. **Testing:** Fall Exit Plan testing will be conducted as follows:

- A. **Eligible population:** The intent of the plan is to provide testing of students leaving campus for the Thanksgiving holiday at a point in time reasonably close to their date of departure while also considering other variables as noted more specifically below. Binghamton estimates the eligible number of students for exit testing as follows:
 - Total Non-remote learners (from previously approved testing plan) = 13,120
 - Less students who subsequently transitioned to remote learning = 1,964
 - Less students who will remain on-campus / local = 1,242
 - Less students medically exempt from testing (prior positive tests) = 265
 - Less students departing campus prior to exit plan = 225
 - Total student traveling population for testing = 9,424
- B. **Academic Calendar /Student Departures:** Binghamton in-person classes meet on alternating weeks (A/B weeks) or on a Student Rotation Model (SRM). Students with only B week in-person classes may not have any in-person academic experiences up to 10-11 days before the end of all in-person academic activities on campus. We expect some of that population to leave Binghamton prior to the week of Thanksgiving. Students with in-person classes on the A week will have in-person academic obligations for an

additional week. Any student scheduled to take in-person exams during the Thanksgiving week may remain in Binghamton until the official start of the Thanksgiving break. In light of the foregoing academic calendar, Binghamton will schedule testing of the eligible student population according to the following calendar:

- Nov. 9-13: testing of students with exclusively B-week, in-person classes and remote learners who come to campus (*approx. 2,800-3,000 students*)
- Nov. 16-20: testing of students with A-week and SRM classes (*approx. 3,800-4,000 students*)
- Nov. 22-24: testing of students with in-person exams Nov. 22-24 (*approx. 2,200-2,400 students*)

This plan customizes individual testing to occur in proximity to a student's actual departure from the Binghamton community. The approximation ranges noted above anticipate that some number of students beyond those already accounted for above will leave the community prior to commencement of exit testing.

- C. Testing Center: Binghamton has operated an on-campus surveillance testing center since Sept. 2. Over time, the campus has developed the capacity to test 800 students per day and 4,000 per week (the testing center operates five days per week). We use a rapid antigen test and provide results to students in approximately 30 minutes via a secure health portal. Students are notified on Thursday/ Friday prior to the week in which they are scheduled for testing. The notification is tied to an online schedule where students can select a time (30- to 60-minute increments) during the following week to arrive for testing. Students who fail to schedule a test are automatically sent a reminder. Students who fail to schedule / appear for testing are subject to disciplinary action. We have maintained a modest no-show rate of approximately 5% including off campus students. All of the above process will be maintained for exit testing on the schedule noted above.
- D. Contact Tracing/Quarantine/Isolation: Binghamton has and will continue to maintain on-campus quarantine and isolation space including during the Thanksgiving period for students who must quarantine / isolate on campus. Capacity of the facilities is tracked daily and they are staffed with a dedicated group of employees reporting through Emergency Management. The above testing schedule is consistent with the maximum testing volume Binghamton has established on a weekly basis (we have previously achieved a testing capacity of 4000 students in one week). The above testing schedule also permits effective management of contact tracing/quarantine and isolation practices in concert with the Broome County Health Department (BCHD) by providing a reasonable window of time to manage a predictable number of positive test results heading into the break period when (a) students will not wish to quarantine/isolate on campus; and (b) staff at county and university posts will be at reduced numbers for the holiday period. Binghamton will additionally perform a second test (PCR) for students who test positive in the exit testing program whenever possible and manage conflicting results in concert with BCHD.

- E. Diagnostic Testing: The campus has extended its capacity to perform diagnostic testing of symptomatic students to include off-campus students, whereas it was previously limited to on-campus students only. Diagnostic testing will continue without interruption as necessary.
 - F. Student Compliance: This testing plan is consistent with Binghamton's approved semester testing plan, with established campus testing patterns and capacity and also takes account of likely student behavior with respect to Thanksgiving travel. The goal of any plan should be to make compliance with the plan likely. Through this testing schedule and approach, Binghamton can achieve substantial compliance by off campus students as well as on campus students with the plan. This testing plan also has the support of our student government leaders.
 - G. Risk Management: As of Nov. 2, the seven-day average of percent positive at Binghamton is 0.54%. This is significantly below the state-wide rate. The testing plan as proposed is an effective response to the risk presented while also accommodating the considerations noted above.
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- 2. Broome County Health Department (BCHD): Binghamton has consistently worked in close coordination with the BCHD on all matters pertaining to COVID-19 response as previously described in our approved Campus Restart Plan and approved Testing Plan. Our medical director consults with the Medical Director of the Broome County Health Department more than weekly; there is a weekly coordination meeting which includes University representatives and BCHD leadership; there is county representation on our surveillance testing committee and our Public Health Advisory Group; there are regular meetings between the County Executive and senior University leadership and this Fall Exit Plan has been reviewed with and endorsed by the BCHD.
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- 3. Campus In-Person Activities Wind-down. In an effort to further reduce the risk of spread among the campus community approaching the Thanksgiving holiday, the campus would substantially limit non-academic in-person activities during the full week prior to Thanksgiving (i.e. beginning Nov. 16). As of that date, we would take the following actions:
 - a. Dining will operate as take-out only
 - b. In-person extracurricular activities will be curtailed. Consideration for exceptions will need to be submitted to the University's Public Health Advisory Group for review and approval.
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- 4. Campus Monitoring and Enforcement. The current campus operating plan includes on campus and off-campus enforcement efforts targeting unauthorized gatherings and non-compliance with social distancing. The off-campus efforts are scheduled on a periodic basis currently. Binghamton will schedule off-campus monitoring activities for the two weekends prior to the Thanksgiving break (Nov. 14-15 and Nov. 21-22) to aggressively

prevent large gatherings. The campus will further coordinate this effort with local government as we have previously. The campus schedules a group of graduate students as the Campus COVID Response Team (CCRTs). CCRTs are in radio contact with campus police and monitor known hotspots for gatherings and non-compliance as well as higher density spaces (Union, Library). As part of the Exit Plan, CCRTs will maintain a full schedule from Nov. 9 to the Thanksgiving break.

5. **Campus Communications Plan.** The campus will begin communicating all of the above information to students on Nov. 5. The communications will be part of a strategic communications plan to not only provide students with information on the Exit Plan, but to also provide context as to the reason for the plan and social norming to push compliance. Our Dean of Students Office has established a student leadership group that is used to push peer to peer efforts to encourage compliance. This group involves over 150 students. The campus communications plan will engage the Dean of Students Leadership Team as part of the strategy to support wide-spread student compliance with the Exit Plan.