Community Town Hall

Anthony P. Monaco
August 4th, 2020
Academic Year 20-21 Planning

• In April-May during the surge in MA, Tufts opened up our campus to medical and community use, working closely with the mayors of Medford and Somerville.

• This experience, plus internal and external health and emergency management advice, informed our scenario planning for summer and fall semesters.

• We shared our plans with the mayors through constant communication via the Tufts Office of Government and Community Relations.

• Tufts involved in Framework for Reopening Higher Education in Massachusetts
  • Higher Education Working Group – Laurie Leshin
  • Higher Education Testing Group – Paula Johnson

• Developed logistical and health surveillance plans for
  • Phase 2: Summer resumption of research and clinical services
  • Phase 3: Fall resumption of residential life

• Announced detailed plan for residential campus in early July
Medical Team Overseeing Health Surveillance

• Michael Jordan MD, MPH, University Infection Control Health Director, Assistant Professor of Medicine & Public Health and Community Medicine, TMC
• Michelle Bowdler MSPH, Executive Director of Health and Wellness Services
• Marie Caggiano MD, MPH, Medical Director, Tufts University Health Services
• Rebecca Ping, Director of Emergency Management
A Multilayered Strategy for Health

- Environments and protocols adjusted for use of campus facilities
  - Calibrated to exposure and transmission risk
  - Developed relative risk categories for students, faculty and staff
- Layers of protection
  - Education, wearing masks, social distancing, hand hygiene, self-reported diagnosis, active health screening, enhanced ventilation and cleaning
  - No single intervention can prevent an outbreak by itself, but are effective together especially wearing of masks
- SARS-CoV-2 testing strategies, symptom surveillance, and contact tracing optimized
  - Symptomatic, onboarding and surveillance testing strategies
- Status levels, indicators, targets and actions defined for adjusting campus operational status and protocols in response to changing conditions
Typical Classrooms

Typical tiered classroom – sticker applied VACANT seat

Typical Classroom w/ Tables – sticker applied to floor
Levels of Exposure
Keeping Yourself and Others Safe

COVID-19 Carrier
without mask
HIGH RISK
Healthy Person
without mask

COVID-19 Carrier
without mask
MODERATE RISK
Healthy Person
with mask

COVID-19 Carrier
with mask
LOW RISK
Healthy Person
without mask

COVID-19 Carrier
with mask
EXTERMELY LOW RISK
NOT SOCIAL DISTANCING
Healthy Person
with mask

COVID-19 Carrier
with mask
NON-EXPOSURE
6 FT SOCIAL DISTANCING
Healthy Person
with mask

Please note this is a general guideline. Different masks offer different levels of protection.
Residential Strategy

Close Contact (CC): >15 min, <6 ft apart

Limiting Close Contacts

Wearing of masks can reduce transmission rate in addition to distance and time.

Students are asked to always wear masks outside their bedroom.
### Three Models for Fall Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Models for Fall semester</th>
<th>Model 1</th>
<th>Model 2</th>
<th>Model 3</th>
<th>Model 3 vs 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campus closed</td>
<td>Campus closed</td>
<td>40% on-campus</td>
<td>Tufts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All on-line</td>
<td>All on-line</td>
<td>Online/hybrid</td>
<td>Online/hybrid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-campus housing/testing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2400</td>
<td>3419</td>
<td>-269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students off-campus</td>
<td>2400</td>
<td>2400</td>
<td>2131</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total students</td>
<td>2400</td>
<td>4800</td>
<td>5550</td>
<td>750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total students in protocols/testing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2400</td>
<td>5550</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total students no protocols/testing</td>
<td>2400</td>
<td>2400</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-2400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Tufts** model reduces off-campus students in the greater Boston area by 269 compared to models 1 and 2.
- **Tufts** model has all its on- and off-campus students involved in health management protocols and surveillance testing.
- **Models 1 and 2** have 2400 students off-campus **not** involved in health management protocols and surveillance testing.
SARS-CoV-2 Testing

• **Symptomatic testing**
  - Individuals reporting COVID-like symptoms
  - We expect very few symptomatic cases at Tufts
  - Tested on site with isolation of positive cases; contact tracing and quarantining of close contacts
  - When testing frequency is low, with delayed results or difficult to access (weekend in MA), more cases are already symptomatic and may have potentially spread the infection

• **Onboard testing**
  - Upon arrival on campus, all students, faculty and student-facing staff are tested
  - Out-of-region students quarantine for 3 negative tests and then enter surveillance testing

• **Surveillance testing**
  - To identify individuals who are infected but who are not exhibiting symptoms (asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic)
  - All on- and off-campus students and staff interacting frequently with students (dining, custodial, RAs) tested 2x/week. Faculty and student-facing staff tested 1x/week.
  - When testing frequency is high (Fall semester), most cases are asymptomatic and less infectious
Updates on Testing and Onboarding

- **Broad Institute** contract signed, and trial begins in Medford early August
  - 106 schools signed up
  - 32,000 tests/day, $25/test, 24 hr turnaround time
  - Tufts: 18,500 tests/week

- **Student arrivals**
  - Aug 16-26: Out-of-region and all current off-campus students
  - Aug 27-30: Out-of-region on-campus students
  - Sept 1-7: In-region off-campus students
  - Sept 8-13: In-region on-campus students

- Two different mathematical models are predicting significantly reduced rates on 1st September compared to daily rates now and through early-August
Broad Institute Testing Materials
App Development

- **CampusKey**
  - **Scheduling** - First version anticipated this week
  - **Attestation of symptoms**
  - **Badging** for test completed and symptom free
- **Testing site** optimal number and wait times
- **Estimator** for number of positive cases daily and 1st September
Quarantine Protocols for On- and Off-campus Students from Out-of-Region

- Tufts will be complying with the state’s requirement for out-of-region students to quarantine upon arrival
  - Out-of-region: Students arriving from outside of New England, NY and NJ
- Both on and off campus students will be tested immediately upon their arrival
- Students will be tested every three (3) days subsequently then enter surveillance testing
- Tufts will require that students remain in quarantine until at least the first three tests (one on arrival, two subsequent tests) are negative
- This should reduce the small number of initial asymptomatic cases we are expecting and thus any potential spread
- Tufts is going beyond the state requirement of just one negative test to end the quarantine in order to keep the surrounding communities safe
Isolation, Quarantine and Contact Tracing

• Temporary Modular Units: “Mods”
  • 222 units on tennis courts and Blakeley parking lot
  • Half ready by mid-August, remainder end of August
  • Single bedrooms with sinks off double sided corridors
  • Shared toilet and shower between two bedrooms
  • Huge shout out to the cities of Somerville and Medford for their facilitation!
• Mods will be used for all COVID positive isolation and some quarantine housing with health surveillance by TU Health Services and EMS 24/7
• We have over 200 spare beds in Blakeley Hall and other residence halls for quarantine especially of roommates of any COVID positive index cases.
• All on-campus and off-campus COVID positive students will be accommodated for isolation as well as quarantine (if not appropriate in place).
• Contact tracing integrated with Local Health Authority, Marathon Health and TMC with state support through the Community Tracing Collaborative.
Student Compliance and Enforcement

- Multi-part strategy to help students make significant and necessary changes to their daily lives
  - Clear communication to students about new expectations and the role they play in the health of the community
  - Use of evidence-based strategies to create the right conditions for compliance with faculty who have expertise
    - e.g., social norms campaigns, students educating their peers, etc.
  - Proactive outreach to athletic teams, off-campus houses of concern
  - Making compliance easy by distributing free masks, providing outdoor (with physical distancing) and virtual social activities
  - Increased policy enforcement by peer teams on-campus and in off-campus neighborhoods
    - Will include weekend nights in off-campus neighborhoods
  - Increased consequences for violations, based on the health impact of behavior

Campaigns:

Social Norming

The social norms approach focuses on positive messages about healthy behaviors and attitudes that are common to most people in a group. It is built on community members and highlighting those who make healthy choices.
Select New Policies

- **Masks** required at all times within six feet of others, on- and off-campus
- At least **six feet** of physical distance in most circumstances
- Required to take **SARS-CoV-2 tests**, complete daily **symptom tracker**, and follow health guidelines
- **No gatherings of 10 or more** people, on- or off-campus
- **TUPD** is aware of the importance of enforcing the no gathering rule. If you notice a gathering, call TUPD at 617-627-3030.
- **Consequences** will be proportionate to the violation. Forgetting mask one time is a warning; hosting a large party will result in serious disciplinary actions including separation/suspension
COVID Residential Campus Status Levels

**Red**
- No on campus living
- Virtual classes
- Essential personnel only on campus
- No on campus events
- Indicators: Increased community spread
- Campus outbreak, $R_t > 2.5$
- PPE unavailable
- Testing limited
- Contact tracing limited

**Orange**
- Further campus living restrictions
- Virtual classes and cocurriculars
- Research and Clinical operations
- Limited staff on campus
- No athletics
- Indicators: Increased community spread
- Increase campus cases, $R_t = 1.5 - 2.5$
- Significant quarantine cases
- PPE limited
- Testing limited
- Contact tracing limited

**Yellow**
- De-densified campus living
- Hybrid classes and cocurriculars
- Reduced staff on campus
- Limited gatherings
- Limited athletics
- Indicators: Minimal community spread
- Few campus cases, $R_t < 1.5$
- Limited quarantine cases
- PPE available
- Testing available
- Contact tracing available

**Green**
- Full on campus living
- In person classes
- Full staff on campus
- Large gatherings allowed
- Full athletics
- Indicators: Only achieved with vaccine and/or COVID-19 treatments.

*Fall 2020 campus opening condition*
Indicators and Targets for Status Levels

- **Indicators**
  - Provide alerts to situations which may signal increased infection & transmission risk at the population level
  - Identify gaps in prevention/treatment services which can be corrected with targeted interventions to
    - Maximally reduce transmission
    - Minimize introduction of new cases
  - **Indicator examples**
    - % testing, test turnaround time, % testing positive
    - Transmission rate, % quarantined, % contact traced
    - % quarantine capacity, % isolation capacity
    - Compliance with social distancing & PPE supply

- **Targets** - Referenced to expected norms

- **Examples of Actions**
  - Intervention with stakeholders/situations; e.g. student compliance to social norms; test turnaround time
  - Quantitative/qualitative analysis to identify gaps in prevention/treatment services
  - Move COVID Residential Status Levels when multiple or leading indicators are breeched
Faculty, Staff and Visitor Protocols for Fall

- For those on campus, **masks** are required, and **physical distancing** practiced at all times, including while teaching. Face shields are not a substitute. Masks, **hand sanitizer and disinfecting materials** are being provided by the university. Each school and unit will have its own distribution procedures.

- We are limiting **community visitors** to campus facilities including libraries and fitness center.

- Before coming to campus, anyone **visiting (vendors, contractors)** or faculty and staff **returning** to a Tufts facility is required to complete a **Daily Health Status Survey** (see the Tufts Covid website – coronavirus.tufts.edu).

- **Testing** is occurring for all on- and off-campus students **2x/week** including RAs, dining and custodial staff. **Student-facing employees** tested **1x/week** (faculty, teaching staff, student services, research staff).

- **Contact tracing** will occur through **Marathon Health** in collaboration with our **Local Health Authority** officials with backup planned from the **Community Tracing Collaborative**.

- **Operations** is providing expanded **infection control** and **cleaning** on all campuses. Hand sanitizer and disinfecting materials are being provided in public areas. Work areas will be wiped down before starting work and before leaving any room.
Tufts Plan for the Fall Semester

• Goes above and beyond local, state and federal guidelines for reopening higher education.
• Is based on work of medical and scientific experts, and mathematical modeling using observed state COVID data across the country.
• Tufts residential model is flexible, has reserve capacity and allows us to absorb cases if conditions change while we intervene or move status level.
• Tufts government and community relations staff members have been in constant communication with local city officials in both Medford and Somerville as our plans were developed.
• Tufts is going way above the required MA out-of-region quarantine rule.
• Tufts plan will protect the maximum number of our community by testing all on- and off-campus students frequently.
• It builds on the strong sense of caring and commitment that all members of Tufts have for each other and members of our surrounding communities as we demonstrated during the surge phase in March and April.
• Tufts will be transparent about our key metrics mirroring how the state and CDC display their daily dashboards.
Thank you