

Report and Recommendations for Reopening Campus

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Taskforce on Reopening Campus (TRC) was constituted to develop a plan for reopening Harford Community College's campus after the campus was forced to close because of COVID-19. The TRC researched data and state and federal guidelines, consulted with other colleges, and reviewed articles from various higher education and scientific resources. Notably, data and guidance changed rapidly, even during the time the TRC implemented its charge. The TRC also consulted with President's Cabinet (PC) on issues surrounding testing requirements and Public Safety's authorities, among other things. The TRC also sought advice from the College's legal counsel on waiver issues.

The TRC strove to focus on developing recommendations for reopening in a manner that can best promote the physical safety and mental wellness of employees and students while allowing the College to achieve its mission. As such, the TRC is recommending a staged approach to reopening that aligns with federal and state reopening phases.

The TRC describes the state of the College at this moment as Stage 0. Stage 1 would be triggered when the Governor lifts the stay-at-home order and the PC determines that all measures are in place to make the campus as safe as possible given the circumstances. At that time, the College would begin to increase critical operational activities on campus, with significant risk mitigation controls in place. Face-to-face instruction does not occur in Stage 1.

Stage 2 is broken into two sub-stages: 2A and 2B. Stage 2A is triggered when state and local governments issue guidance that they are ready to move into Medium Risk and Phase 2 stages, respectively. Also, the PC must determine that the necessary controls can be implemented so that the

benefit of opening at this stage outweighs the risk. During Stage 2A, essential activities and limited face-to-face instruction may occur for essential courses. Essential courses and activities will be determined by the Vice President of each division. If there is no evidence of campus-based spread of COVID-19 and the PC believes that sufficient controls can be implemented to expand activities on campus, the College would move to Stage 2B, which allows for the expansion of activities and face-to-face instruction to other courses that cannot be effectively delivered fully online.

It is not until the state and local government indicates that it is safe to move to Stage 3 that operations may resume in a manner similar to before March 12, 2020. This will likely be when there is a vaccine or effective therapeutic treatment of COVID-19.

Throughout all stages up to 2B, per the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), risk mitigation controls are essential, including physical distancing and wearing of a face mask by all persons on campus. COVID-19 screening, including temperature checks, will also be necessary. Also, the College must develop additional guidelines to ensure that those students and employees who are sick stay home, and those whose health and family circumstances make it untenable to come to campus have the flexibility to continue to work and learn from home.

Because the College must implement extraordinary measures to reduce risk of COVID-19 on campus, purchasing of resources, establishment of detailed guidelines, establishment of detailed implementation plans, and creation and dissemination of campus education tools are conditions precedent to reopening under each stage. It is important to note that, although the College will follow best practices to mitigate risk, low risk does not equal no risk.

