



INDIANA COMMISSION *for* HIGHER EDUCATION

COVID-19 Guidance

Monday, March 30, 2020

As Indiana continues to monitor the evolving outbreak of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and its impact on communities, guidance will continue to be published and updated on the Indiana State Department of Health's (ISDH) Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) webpage: [coronavirus.in.gov](https://www.in.gov/coronavirus).

Pursuant to [Executive Order 20-02](#), issued by Governor Holcomb on March 6, 2020, a public health emergency exists in Indiana attributable to COVID-19 and all state personnel are ordered to assist in the execution of this order and all other guidance that follows. This guidance provided by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education is intended to help institutions execute this order and prepare for the impact of COVID-19 on the students and staff of Indiana's institutions of higher education.

Immediate Action Steps

Pursuant to [Executive Order 20-08](#), or the "Stay-At-Home" order, educational institutions are deemed Essential Businesses and Operations and should continue facilitating distance learning, performing critical research, or performing essential functions, provided that social distancing of six-feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible. The Commission strongly recommends that all colleges and universities immediately take the following actions if they have not done so already:

- Institutions should implement remote instruction, making accommodations for those who lack access to either the technology or broadband internet and for students with disabilities. Resources to support students are available in at [LearnMoreIndiana.org/students-families/covid-19](https://www.learnmoreindiana.org/students-families/covid-19).
- Institutions should limit in-person interaction on campus as much as possible, including:
 - Restricting access to community gathering places, such as student centers, campus commons, athletic facilities and other such areas.
 - Limiting in-person gatherings of students, faculty or staff, and cancelling or postponing mass gatherings such as sporting events and performances.
 - Moving to telework and remote work environments for as many employees and staff as possible.
 - Pursuant to [Executive Order 20-10](#), ceasing communal dining and moving to "grab-and-go" meal options; consider establishing food delivery services from cafeterias so that students who have illness consistent with COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath) do not have to leave their rooms to get food.

- Institutions should consider accommodations for students who are food or housing insecure and who may suffer a disproportionate impact from the evolving situation.
- Institutions should cancel or postpone any university-sponsored international or non-essential travel for students and faculty.
- Institutions should consider screening students returning to school from an extended time away from campus, including international travel or cruises and spring break travel.
- Institutions should engage campus police to establish an incident command system structure.
- Institutions should convene their emergency management team immediately, and the teams should continue to meet on an ongoing basis. Each team should be reviewing, updating and implementing the institution's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). As part of this process, institutions should assess whether their EOP is sufficient to address pandemics (N.J.S.A. 18A:3B-69(a)(1) specifically requires that institutional EOPs address pandemics).

Recommended Best Practices

- Institutional leadership should monitor daily the [Indiana State Department of Health, Center for Disease Control](#), [U.S. Department of Education](#) and [World Health Organization](#) websites in order to obtain the most up-to-date information on this rapidly evolving situation.
- Institutions should include a Coronavirus/COVID-19 section on their website to ensure transparency for the campus community in regard to all COVID-19-related actions taken.
- Institutions should appoint a contact person(s) for their campuses for student/general public inquiries pertaining to COVID-19 and publish this contact on the Coronavirus/COVID-19 section on their website.
- Institutions should, in alignment with the CDC, publicize and promote preventive health action steps to students to prevent the transmission of respiratory infections.
- Institutions should be flexible in making accommodations for students and employees who may be subject to quarantine.

The Commission will continue to coordinate statewide operations, determine appropriate and needed policy changes, gather and share information from our institutions of higher education, monitor federal legislation, and prepare for what is coming down the road for our workforce and higher education as a result of this crisis.

Institutions should continue to coordinate with federal, state and local officials as they develop preparations and plans for this rapidly evolving situation. For clarifications and potential questions, please view the Commission's COVID-19 FAQs and other resources.

COVID-19 Resources

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

- [CHE COVID-19 Webpage](#)
- Financial Aid Support Center: 888-528-4719
- Twitter: @HigherEdIN

Governor Eric Holcomb

- All [Executive Orders](#)
- [Stay-At-Home Order FAQ](#)
- Twitter: @GovHolcomb

US Department of Education

- <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>
- Twitter: @usedgov

Indiana State Health Department

- Visit [Coronavirus.in.gov](https://www.in.gov/coronavirus) for regular updates
- Sign up to receive ISDH's COVID-19 news updates (found on their webpage)
- Call the ISDH 24/7 help line at 877-826-0011
- Email questions to epiresource@isdh.in.gov
- Twitter: @StateHealthIN

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- www.cdc.gov
- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Resources for Institutes of Higher Education](#)
- [COVID-19 Home Care Guidance](#)
- Twitter: @CDCgov

World Health Organization

- [World Health Organization](https://www.who.int)
- Twitter: @WHO

Other National Health Resources

- [ACHA COVID-19 Guidance](#)
- [SHEEO list of COVID-19 State Plans](#)

Unemployment

- [DWD COVID-19 Information](#)
- [The Unemployment Insurance Basics: What Impacted Hoosier Workers Need to Know](#) (webinar)