



Bryant University

Reopening Plan

Executive Summary

Preliminary Plan- Subject to Review

Bryant University's reopening plans are subject to ongoing review and refinement in alignment with best practices and guidance from the Rhode Island Department of Health.

June 15, 2020



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1 Introduction

Over the past several weeks, more than fifty members of the Bryant community have met regularly to review the latest medical guidance, as well as Federal and State policies and regulations, in order to evaluate a wide range of options related to every facet of campus life. The attached documents comprise Bryant University's comprehensive plan to allow students to return to campus to resume in-person instruction and residential life beginning in August 2020. In broad terms, the plan covers the following core topics:

- Health & Safety
- Academic Programs
- Residence Life/Student Life
- Communications
- Staff, Facilities & Food Services
- Athletics & Recreation

This comprehensive plan is still evolving and will be modified to reflect new information and to adapt to changing circumstances. The plan's ultimate objective is to balance the University's primary concern for the safety of all members of the campus community with its mission of providing a vibrant and innovative on-campus learning and living environment for students. As is detailed below, reopening the campus will involve a phased process involving a series of steps sequenced to allow for continuous assessment and adjustment.

1.1 About Bryant University

Throughout its 157-year history Bryant University has earned a reputation for innovative academic programs that are highly attuned to the emerging needs of industry and society. Bryant's close-knit, student-centered community of scholars delivers challenging academic programs that integrate business and the arts and sciences, with an emphasis on real-world application and a global perspective. Abundant co-curricular opportunities, service learning programs, internships, and practica allow students to put theory into practice while building character and leadership skills.

Bryant University is primarily a residential institution with 89% of its undergraduate students living on campus. Students come to Bryant from 45 states

and 43 countries. All graduate students either live off campus or are enrolled in remote online programs.

Located on a pristine 450-acre campus in Smithfield, Rhode Island, Bryant University is fortunate, at this time, to be somewhat isolated from the broader community, and accessible **only through a single point of entry** with the entry control station staffed 24/7. This will facilitate the screening and monitoring of all students, faculty, staff and visitors to the campus.

2 Health & Safety

The health and safety of all members of the Bryant University community are the primary focus of this plan to gradually reopen the campus in the summer of 2020 and maintain a residential experience and modified in-person instruction through the fall of 2020. Bryant University recognizes that significant effort must be put forth to mitigate the risks the COVID-19 virus presents to the campus. The plan outlines the steps that will be taken to help balance the need for a return to normalcy on campus while protecting our community of more than 3900 individuals.

All health and safety measures will be implemented and maintained using the guidance of the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and in accordance with all regulations and mandates promulgated by the [Rhode Island Department of Health](#) (RIDOH). Bryant University will maintain frequent communication with RIDOH and assign a clinical nurse practitioner as a liaison to DOH.

The Health and Safety Committee, headed by Dr. Peter King, M.D., was charged with providing advice and support for the effort to safely reopen the Bryant University Campus. Following a thorough review of best practices, consultation with infectious disease specialists, and the [Rhode Island Department of Health](#) (RIDOH), the committee created a thorough health plan, addressing preparedness, prevention, screening, laboratory testing, case identification and contact tracing, isolation and quarantine, staffing, and an emergency shut down plan. Further, this committee provided health guidance to the Academic, Student Life, Athletics, and Facilities & Staff committees. The Health and Safety Committee will continue to operate as a resource throughout the pandemic, researching and providing ongoing advice to the President, Cabinet, and Administration.

Although there is much to learn about the SARS-CoV-2 virus, based on the current available data, the current lack of any effective treatment, and no vaccine, the most

effective measure for reducing the likelihood of a campus wide outbreak will require a layered approach. The layering of preparedness, prevention, screening, laboratory testing, case identification and contact tracing, isolation and quarantine, staffing, and mitigation will have a cumulative effect and help prevent an epidemic and prevent the need to close the campus emergently.

2.1 Preparation

Many characteristics of the SARS-CoV-2 virus are currently unknown, available information is increasing daily, and guidance from federal and state organizations is updated frequently. The Health & Safety Committee will remain flexible and be prepared to change course as this guidance evolves. This will include preparing for the possibility of the need for long-term mitigation and management. Efforts focused on education will be directed at all faculty, students, staff, guests, and visitors to campus. In addition to ensuring that everyone is full informed about the steps necessary to minimize transmission of the virus, educational efforts will focus on the importance of everyone accepting their responsibility to keep this a safe place. Visible messaging will be prominently displayed throughout the campus and correspondence will be directed to the community on a routine basis. Campus television, posters, digital properties including web sites and social media will be updated regularly to provide the campus community with the latest information, rules, and guidance. Non-essential travel will be curtailed for employees, and essential travel will be performed in accordance with current RIDOH regulations and closely monitored.

2.2 Prevention

Significant effort has been applied to the prevention of an outbreak of COVID-19 on campus, and this effort will be ongoing. Using the latest available information regarding the virus, its spread, and the risk to individuals, the campus will implement all measures recommended by the CDC and mandated by the RIDOH, along with best practices suggested by current research and literature. This will include measures such as required face masks, physical distancing, space limitations, alteration of campus facilities, increased hygiene measures, as well as an enhanced cleaning and disinfecting processes. Influenza and other influenza-like illnesses (ILIs) closely mimic COVID-19, and an outbreak could hinder progress made on prevention of an outbreak; to that end, campus-wide efforts to increase influenza vaccination will be implemented early in the Fall of 2020.

High risk individuals from the faculty, staff, and students will be provided education regarding risk and complications of COVID-19 and will work with the University to ensure their safety. Accommodations may include remote teaching and learning, lecture capture, technology-based pedagogical approaches, and remote work for staff.

2.3 Screening and Identification of Potential Cases

Screening and identification of potential cases of COVID-19 is imperative in protecting the campus. The primary effort of our mitigation strategy is campus-wide screening for potential cases. Toward this end, faculty, staff, and students will be provided oral thermometers and will self-attest to their temperatures daily as well as attesting daily that they are not experiencing any of the symptoms detailed by the CDC. Each individual who enters the campus, as well as residential students, will be screened for signs and symptoms **using a Bryant University developed application** on their phone:

Bryant Health Check. This screening is designed to meet the requirement established by the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) [Reopening RI General Business /Organization Guidelines](#) and will be updated to reflect changes from the department. Individuals who reside on campus, and are not subject to daily screening at the entry control station, will be required to complete the same screening attestation before moving from their residence hall to enter any campus facility. The application is designed to provide a means of identifying those who have self-identified as being symptom free and those who endorse any symptoms or meet other criteria for quarantine. Health Services personnel will have access to data from the app for all persons screened and will be notified of any potential positive cases prompting rapid intervention. The application will serve as an access pass to any campus building or facility. As screening is only one step in the identification process and has the potential to miss asymptomatic cases, all campus members must also adhere to physical distancing measures and wear a facemask when they will have potential interaction with other campus members. In addition, Bryant has ordered 100 handheld thermometers that will be strategically positioned to conduct random temperature checks (e.g., at the entrance to the dining hall, fitness center, student center, etc.).

COVID-19 is often asymptomatic, especially in young persons, and can have an asymptomatic infectious period of several days, even in those individuals who do eventually develop symptoms. Therefore, the most imperative measure in the mitigation of a potential outbreak on campus will be the rapid identification of symptoms, laboratory testing, and isolation of any positive cases. The primary means of

prevention on the Bryant Campus will be aggressive testing of any individual with COVID-19 symptoms or those who may have been exposed to someone with an active COVID-19 infection. Following guidance provided by the RIDOH, campus Health Services will perform a PCR COVID-19 test every person with symptoms or who endorses positive on the COVID App or coordinate to have test performed at an outside lab as part of a sentinel early warning system. Bryant has purchased two, Cepheid Xpert Express machines to conduct onsite testing which will allow turnaround estimated at 45 minutes. This testing will be done by trained health services personnel. Any suspected case of COVID-19 will be rapidly tested on campus using PCR testing performed by Health Services personnel who will wear personal protective equipment (PPE) and be prepared to initiate rapid isolation.

All faculty, staff, and students will be advised to have a COVID-19 PCR test completed within 14 days prior to arrival on the Bryant University Campus. Those with a positive test will be asked to isolate for 14 days before reporting to campus. Those who cannot be tested, will be offered testing at a local laboratory as coordinated by Bryant Health Services with assistance from the RIDOH as available. Random samples will be obtained as each group returns to campus. Numbers to be tested will be determined based on the current status of COVID-19 prevalence and the test positive rate in Rhode Island. In addition, routine surveillance screening will be implemented at an interval determined by the Health and Safety Committee based on guidance from the DOH or campus conditions including ILI case numbers seen by Health Services. In the event of a campus-wide outbreak, the RIDOH will be consulted, and laboratory testing will be performed to determine the need for implementing campus-wide mitigation strategies. Bryant will hold one residence hall open to deal with isolation and quarantine if needed.

In order to augment our planned laboratory testing strategy and further protect the campus community, Bryant University will implement a case investigation, contact tracing, surveillance, and reporting system. Trained case investigators consisting of student workers, supervised by a Health Services administrator, will be assigned to interview each positive case, collect data, and identify contacts. Each contact will then be interviewed to determine actual exposure. Laboratory confirmed cases will be isolated and contacts quarantined. The supervisor will maintain documentation of all encounters, make appropriate RIDOH notifications, and prepare comprehensive reports which will provide ongoing information necessary to implement more aggressive screening, testing, and mitigation. The testing will be conducted by a team separate

from our Health Services personnel, who will deal with the regular student health issues and any positive COVID-19 cases.

2.4 Isolation and Quarantine

The Health and Safety Committee understands the likelihood of active cases of COVID-19 on campus and has reserved rooms in one complete residential hall (capacity: 88 beds) capable of isolating non-significantly ill individuals who have tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Health Services personnel will also maintain a quarantine location capable of housing asymptomatic persons who have been exposed to those with COVID-19. All federal and state guidelines will be adhered to in implementing isolation and quarantine. Significantly ill individuals will be transported via EMS to local hospitals for emergent and continued care.

The Health Services department will be augmented to include an additional location designed as a sick clinic for the purpose of separating COVID and non-COVID patients. This plan requires a significant increase in health and administrative staffing, space, and resources in order to maintain normal operations in addition to all COVID required preparation, prevention, screening, testing, case investigation, contact tracing, surveillance, reporting, quarantine, and isolation.

In the event of a significant outbreak on campus, including substantial community transmission, Bryant University is prepared to work with the Department of Health, follow all mandated and executive orders from the Governor, and implement a phased closure of the campus. In addition, the committee has investigated the capacity of the campus for handling COVID cases on site and will use this information to monitor the situation as the Fall progresses (using such facilities as the Athletic Multi-Purpose Center, which has been used to shelter students during hurricanes, Bryant could handle several hundred infected or quarantined patients).

The Health and Safety Committee has thoroughly researched the guidance provided by the CDC and RIDOH in the preparation of this report but recognizes that, due to the fluid nature of the situation, guidance may change between the preparation and implementation of this plan. We appreciate any guidance and suggestions from the RIDOH and will fully implement such suggestions for the health and safety of our campus and our community.

3 Academic Programs

Higher education faces an unprecedented disruption that is likely to continue through January 2021 at minimum. In conducting a decision-making analysis of how Bryant should proceed during the fall of 2020, several factors were considered including: the desire for a safe on-campus presence for students, faculty and staff; the need to provide clarity and consistency for parents and admitted and current students regarding the upcoming semester; and the need to manage issues related to Thanksgiving break travel, flu season, and a potential second wave of Covid-19. Balancing such concerns with excellent academics and the “total” college experience including extra-curricular programs will not be easy. However, we have reviewed myriad approaches in order to determine the best fit for our unique, 3,200 undergraduate student residential campus located in a rural/suburban community. (The graduate school program is either fully online or for commuters living off campus.) After careful consideration, we recommend (1) delivering course material in a hybrid fashion, and (2) starting the semester early so that faculty and students are finished with course work and final exams by Thanksgiving. Each recommendation is explained below.

3.1 Hybrid Course Delivery

In order to provide a rich campus experience while observing Federal and State guidelines for social distancing, we propose employing a hybrid model of course delivery. In courses with 15 or more students, half of the students would attend class in-person while the other half would attend remotely, with the groups flipping on alternate days. Although faculty will adjust this model according to their own unique pedagogical needs, it is important to ensure that Carnegie standards for contact hours are met. The hybrid approach enables social distancing, but ensures that all students receive the same quality instruction from their professors.

3.2 Academic Calendar

Given the extraordinary circumstances under which first-year students are beginning their college lives, it is important to give them a chance to settle into the Bryant community. Thus, our recommendation is to bring first-year students back to campus on August 19th, 2020 and, for the next several days (through August 24th), provide programming through which they can attend various “classes” to get to know faculty, become acquainted with the full array of resources available to them, and participate in activities that will help them forge a bond with the University, and understand the importance of social distancing and critical hygiene habits. International students will return on August 9 and will be quarantined for 14 days before becoming integrated in

the campus. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors will return to campus on August 23rd and 24th, with all classes beginning on Tuesday, August 25th, 2020. Classes will end on Friday, November 13th. Final exams will take place on campus over the following 11 days and conclude on Tuesday, November 24th, 2020, when all students will vacate the campus for a long break. (The exceptions to departing students may include some international students and winter sports athletes.) The Innovation and Design Experience for All (IDEA) program will be offered virtually this year (January 25th through 27th), with spring classes slated to begin January 28th, 2021. This schedule provides an opportunity to offer two intersessions during the extended winter break (December 3rd – December 22, 2020 and January 3rd – January 22nd, 2021).

3.3 Classroom Space and Scheduling

It is important to note that if Phase 3 of the State of Rhode Island re-opening allows groups of 50, no classes will be affected. However, assuming that this will not be the case, we have mapped the 70-plus existing classrooms as well other campus spaces (e.g., the Interfaith Center, MRC 3 and 4, etc.) to determine seating configuration and maximum capacity with 6-foot social distancing. There are a handful of spaces that could accommodate a full class of 35 students in-person with social distancing; other rooms can hold all students with social distancing in lower enrolled courses. We are developing a weighted model to prioritize courses for fully in-person experiences; key factors include (among other things) first-year and laboratory classes. We have purchased video equipment to be able to simultaneously broadcast every lecture or have it available asynchronously - as shared in the next topic: Technology.

In addition to a reduction in capacity, the classroom schedule must prioritize the minimization of students simultaneously in the hallways, and ensure the continued cleanliness of each classroom. A preliminary schedule has been developed that staggers class times during periods in which more than 10 rooms are being used. The revised schedule also maintains approximately 20 minutes between each class in order to control traffic flow and allow for periodic disinfecting. Class days remain the same, but meeting times are more spread out during the day. The schedule also largely maintains the dates and times of previously scheduled evening classes in order to reduce the impact on working students and part-time graduate students. Finally, the schedule minimizes the conflicts that students are likely to have by “mapping” originally scheduled class times into new times and thus lightens the administrative burden relative to a complete schedule overhaul. The Academic and Technology Committee has a number of open issues to resolve including the need to incorporate some Saturday

classes to meet Carnegie standards, and to resolve conflicts with other areas (e.g., athletics and clubs) as the schedule utilizes more of the afternoons and some Saturdays.

3.4 Technology

In order to provide an engaged classroom experience and instructional support, classrooms will be equipped with web-conferencing cameras, ceiling mounted microphones, digital inking/annotation devices, dual instructor displays and confidence monitors. For hybrid lab support as well as examination needs, we suggest virtual software licensing and cloud services, discipline specific advanced lab technologies, and a secure virtual exam administration and proctoring solution/service. Additionally, we recommend select technologies are made available to better equip remote instructional needs. Bryant's Online Learning Team and Center for Teaching Excellence will continue to develop workshops for training faculty in the use of technology and online pedagogy.

3.5 Faculty

Members of the faculty will be asked to "self-identify" whether they fall under one of the higher risk categories and are, therefore, unable to perform their job functions on campus. Faculty members identified in these categories will teach remotely. For staff, accommodations could involve working remotely based on business needs and, in some cases, include modified job responsibilities. Students classified as high-risk and international students unable to be present on campus will participate via distance learning. Faculty teaching in-class/hybrid need to make appropriate accommodations for such students. As recommended by the CDC, all in-person meetings should be replaced by video or teleconference calls whenever possible. This includes office hours for faculty members. Faculty should continue offering 5 office hours each week.

3.6 Student Needs

The heart of a successful academic experience rests on the preparedness of faculty and instructional support units to respond with flexibility to student learning needs. Key areas such as ADA Compliance, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), testing and exam assessment, and group work were evaluated. All instruction must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, following ADA compliance guidelines for blind and low-vision students; developing provisions for students with chronic migraines and concussions; and implementing procedures for students who are eligible for note taking accommodations. In addition to following ADA guidelines, applying Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles can help faculty to ensure they support all learners. Key aspects of UDL include presenting information and assessing students in multiples ways.

With respect to testing and assessment, a variety of different approaches should be considered: outsourcing proctoring; using alternatives to timed exams when possible; developing in-house solutions via existing technology to enhance exam integrity; and creating physical exam centers that consider social distancing. When creating groups, faculty should take into account academic skills/performance, student availability/schedule, and placement of minority students (including females, international students, and students of color). Research and teaching project management software can also help groups manage their work (Trello, Slack, etc.), as can leveraging Bryant's current resources for students and faculty (e.g., ACE).

4 Residence Life/Student Life

With its oversight for Health Services, Residential Life, Student Engagement, Public Safety, and other key departments, the Student Affairs Division plays an integral role in the health and safety of all students as Bryant University returns to normalcy during the COVID-19 pandemic. The division's comprehensive plan combines the expertise of professionals from these departments with State and Federal guidelines to provide concrete, actionable steps, policies, and procedures for a variety of foreseeable circumstances. The Student Affairs Division is committed to ensuring the safest possible return to campus for all students, and to continue to vigilantly assess student safety throughout the fall semester and beyond, making adjustments as needed, to allow for the best possible student experience.

4.1 Health Services

The Health Services staff has worked closely with the Health and Safety Committee to make recommendations regarding COVID-19 specific procedures in the Health Services facility, the design of a COVID-19 separate clinical space, the increase of Health Services staff to accommodate all COVID-19 requirements, the designation of a Clinical Nurse Practitioner as our liaison to RIDOH, and a variety of recommendations to keep all University members safe across the campus. The details of these recommendations can be found in the Health and Safety section of the full report. As noted, our Health Services staff will need to take care of regular student health issues, so the University intends to increase the Health Services staff as well as employ a separate testing team.

4.2 Residential Life

4.2.1 Distancing

Residential Life has done extensive analysis regarding occupancy adjustments and distancing needed to address COVID-19 requirements in student rooms, common areas, and bathrooms. Various options are being considered to ensure proper distancing in student living areas. Some actionable steps include: closure of building lounges and common kitchens, spacing or removal of furniture where necessary, social distancing during move in, limiting visitors to campus, designating one-way traffic patterns in halls, posting schedules for bathroom access/limitations, and a contingency plan of reserving hotel rooms as needed.

4.2.2 Cleaning

Daily cleaning of bathrooms in residence houses with approved disinfectants will be increased utilizing Facilities staff. Students residing in townhouses will be trained on proper cleaning of their residence and supplied with cleaning supplies. Additionally, Facilities will continuously clean all hallways, bathrooms in the classroom buildings, and high touch areas throughout the day. Purell dispensers will be distributed broadly across campus.

4.2.3 Quarantine and Isolation Spaces

Residential Life has designated appropriate spaces for students in one complete residence hall who may need to be quarantined or isolated during the academic year. Adjustments will be made to move students currently assigned to these areas to other appropriate living spaces. Students who become ill or require quarantine will have the full support of the Student Affairs Division to provide food delivery, medications, laundry and other necessities during isolation or quarantine.

4.2.4 Community Standards

The Residential Life staff, in partnership with the Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students, will revise the Code of Conduct to reflect necessary changes for a COVID-19 safe campus including: facemask requirement, social distancing requirement, gathering limits per the Rhode Island Governor, and the elimination of guests visiting residential students.

4.3 Student Engagement

4.3.1 Three-Phase Approach

The Student Engagement Office will implement a three-phase approach to student events adhering to the Rhode Island State guidelines on restrictions to the number of individuals able to gather in one place. This three-phase approach will monitor success and increase in-person activities as allowed and only if success is achieved with student safety in previous phases. In-person gatherings will adhere to all State guidelines and will observe social distancing.

4.3.2 Cancelling of Events

Any event requiring high-risk contact will be cancelled, postponed, or implemented virtually.

4.3.3 Food at Events

Food provided at in-person events will be pre-packaged and pick up only.

Vendors and Service Providers

All outside vendors and service providers will be thoroughly vetted and required to provide the University a COVID-19 Response Plan, including daily attestations in order to come onto the campus. Compliance of all vendors and service providers will be monitored closely and restrictions to campus will be instituted as needed.

International Students and Affairs

Bryant currently has 207 international students attending undergraduate programs. The International Affairs Division will address concerns unique to international students and their parents regarding fall reopening of Bryant's campus under various COVID-19 conditions. Specific recommendations regarding visa compliance, potential travel restrictions, early arrivals on August 9, and necessary campus supports are provided and discussed in the full report. Various scenarios regarding arrival times, transportation, quarantine requirements, and related campus services are recommended. Based upon the mitigation progress, adjustments for fall events, such as the 4MILE program, are outlined in the full report. Special considerations for short term breaks, such as Thanksgiving and Winter breaks, off-campus international students, and students who can't return to campus in the fall are presented.

4.4 Communication

To assure ready access to information and announcements, all communications regarding COVID-19 will at minimum utilize a three-point, multi-platform communication model wherein email updates are also posted to the Bryant COVID microsite, as a centralized repository and information hub, and shared on the University social media accounts (Twitter and Facebook). In times of crisis communication, such as in the event of an outbreak within the community, the three-point model will be expanded to also include: RI Broadcasters Network and the DPS Information Line.

5 Staff, Facilities & Food Service

5.1 Staff

The campus reopening plan for Bryant employees is formulated in a manner consistent with a set of Guiding Principles that have been established to guide Bryant University's decision making and policy setting for the return of community members to the Smithfield campus. These guiding principles balance protecting the health and safety of students, faculty, staff and the Smithfield community, our commitment to fulfilling Bryant's mission, and our obligation and intention to follow the recommendations of the CDC, RI public health and elected officials and the University's internal health and safety committee.

The plan establishes general work standards including the method and frequency of COVID-19 screening protocols; personal hygiene best practices (cloth facial mask required in all public spaces, appropriate hand washing, disinfecting of personal work spaces and shared equipment/devices); distancing practices, including the continued utilization of email, phone and videoconferencing applications in lieu of personal communications, and protocols for the utilization of shared spaces including dining facilities, breakrooms, hallways and meeting rooms. The plan also includes an outline for a phased-in return of employees to campus, along with a number of strategies to limit person to person contact throughout our campus facilities, including staggered staffing patterns, and alternative work arrangements including remote work to accommodate employees facing heightened risk factors, child/elder care issues, etc.

The document also details compliance efforts, including on-line COVID-19 related training for all faculty and staff; the need to comply with State of RI posting requirements; maintenance of confidential Personal Health Information (PHI)/records;

and associated updates to the Bryant Organizational Policy Manual and Employee Handbook to clarify expectations relative to the workplace.

5.2 Facilities

The Facilities Department at Bryant University has continued operations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. Our Trades, Grounds and Custodial Divisions have been on-site throughout the stay at home – Work from home orders. We are now preparing to assist with the phased reopening of campus between June and August.

Facilities operations have moved most staffing to a first shift operation, except for the HVAC trade. We will add a second shift custodial operation beginning on July 6, 2020 when we bring back furloughed custodial staff. This method will allow us to physically distance workers on different parts of the campus more effectively.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be distributed from the Facilities team. Disposable face coverings will be made available to any sub-contractor or visitor that arrives on campus without proper PPE.

Physical distancing began with the essential personnel in the Facilities operations at the outset of the pandemic. We will expound on our existing program as the campus resumes operations. All faculty, staff, students, guests, and contractors will stay at least six feet from other people. We will use engineering controls including signage on floors, walls, entrances, and elevators to remind occupants of state mandated guidelines.

Bryant University will enforce the RIDOH policy on maximum number of persons allowed in group settings. Group sizes will remain consistent with guidance from the RIDOH. Group size limits will be publicized throughout campus via posters and community correspondence. One-way traffic patterns will be established throughout the campus including stairways. Unnecessary doors will be secured to reduce touch points. Limits will be established to maintain physical distancing in restrooms and other public spaces, such as the post office.

Physical barriers, including plexiglass, will be placed in any area where there is frequent face to face contact and a 6-foot distance cannot be maintained. This will include all food service areas, cashiers, suite coordinator desks.

A detailed bathroom cleaning plan has been separated into two types of areas. The first areas consist of academic and athletic bathrooms and locker rooms. Second, we have a plan to increase cleaning of restrooms in the residence halls. As part of the reopening strategy, Custodial Services will clean all bathrooms in the residence halls. This work will

be done daily between the hours of 9AM and 6PM to reduce disruption of the student life experience.

Classroom cleaning and disinfecting will be completed between classes when safe to do so. We will assign custodial staff to spraying the hard surfaces in the classrooms using an electrostatic sprayer since it is the most efficient way to clean this space.

Assignments on the third shift (overnight) will include wiping all the furniture down as the spray technique sometimes leaves a light residue. We will implement cleaning of high touch surfaces in all academic buildings. These surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected on a rotating cleaning schedule between 6AM and 6PM.

Occupants in office spaces will be expected to empty their trash and recycle into bins placed in common areas. The practice will allow for better physical distancing and provide more time for cleaning in heavily used locations. The bins will be clearly marked and emptied daily. Office spaces will be cleaned on a weekly basis or by request through the work order system.

A third-party cleaning contractor will be retained for as needed labor. We will be prepared for excessive absence in the staffing model. This could result from quarantine or isolation measures due to exposure with somebody who tested positive, family matters or other undetermined factors. We will also retain a vendor relationship with an environmental restoration company to clean and disinfect spaces in which we have an occupant who tested positive.

Protocols for managing sub-contractors and delivery drivers coming onto the Bryant University campus will be a coordinated effort between Facilities Management and Department of Public Safety (DPS). The Facilities team will notify DPS of contractors and vendors scheduled to arrive on campus each day. Sub-contractors will be required to sign in and attest they have no symptoms of COVID-19 after reviewing the RIDOH posters. They will then be escorted to the job site for the day. Delivery drivers that are accessing only the shipping/receiving docks will sign off an attestation form at the dock after reviewing the poster in that location.

5.3 Food Services

Bryant University's Campus Dining Services will work to ensure that all students, faculty and staff needs are met in a safe and expeditious manner. Guidelines will be followed as outlined by the Rhode Island Department of Health. The group will work to adhere to local and state government requirements and recommendations. To achieve the aforementioned it will be imperative that strict sanitation guidelines, social distancing, the use of facemasks, washing of hands, and the changing of gloves all be utilized to ensure that safeguards are in place. PPE will be provided for all staff. All employees will be required to fill out the mandated COVID-19 Screening tool required by the RIDOH.

Meal services will move to disposable packaging, to include; cups, containers and single service wrapped plastic ware. There will be no common use condiments such as salt and pepper shakers and napkin holders. All dining platforms will be moved to serve only; and grab and go offerings. Students, Faculty and staff will be asked to adhere to the six (6) foot minimum spacing while waiting for their respective meal. Any seating will be altered to meet the mandate set forth by the RIDOH. The use of a preorder platform will be utilized to limit the time that customers will be in line in addition to expediting pickup. Meals will be prepaid and pickup will be removed from the primary order space. Entrance into the main dining hall will be limited to one (1) way in and one (1) out. All customers will utilize their ID card or credit card for a form of payment. The use of touchless payment is available in addition to self-service swiping of the student ID.

Retail environments will utilize the GET Food app that will allow them to pre-order their respective meals. Traffic flows will be routed so to eliminate/minimize contact from customers entering and exiting. Culinary staff located in the kitchen and serving area will adhere to the 6-foot distances as well as rerouting the flow of staff to limit any crossing in the kitchen.

The University will also work with various other independent retail food service providers who are located on campus to ensure that preparation, sale and pickup of food is undertaken per the plans outlined above.

6 Athletics and Recreation

Campus athletics and recreation programs, from varsity athletics, to club sports and intramurals, physical fitness and group exercise classes, are an integral part of the Bryant experience, providing members of the campus community the opportunity to maintain health and well-being in their daily lives.

With more than 500 student-athletes competing on 22 varsity sports programs, more than 2,500 students participating in club sports and intramurals throughout the year, the COVID-19 virus presents a high risk of transmission in athletic settings due to frequent physical contact, potential for aerosolization during exercise, fomites (shared towels, water bottles, athletic equipment, balls), and the potential physical effects of over-training and dehydration on disease resistance.

The following plan presents guidelines for resuming athletic activities in a phased approach in accordance with guidance from the State of Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA), and the American College Health Association (ACHA). These guidelines have been developed in conjunction with the Bryant University campus planning and response committee for the reopening of Bryant Athletics and Recreation. The guidelines within this proposal are subject to evolving rules and guidance issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), RIDOH, and Bryant University.

This report will focus on the protocols for varsity and club sports teams as outlined by NATA's recommendations. It also includes protocols for the Chace Wellness and Athletic Center, the strength and conditioning center, Conaty Indoor Athletic Center, and other on-campus athletic facilities and outdoor athletic areas.

6.1 Athletics Return

The resocialization of athletics must be grounded in the resocialization and guidelines set forth by the Bryant University and the RIDOH guidelines. Bryant Athletics will operate in accordance with campus reopening procedures when developing a timeline for return to practice and competition.

6.2 Athletic Training | National Athletic Trainers Association Guidelines

In preparation for athletics return to play, these policies and procedures follow the recommended NATA guidelines. These guidelines were reviewed by members of the Athletics committee as well as the Health and Safety Committee to include COVID-19 Education, PPE supplies and equipment, screening procedures for all student-athletes and coaches and staff, pre-participation exam to be performed for freshmen and transfer student-athletes, testing protocols, positive cases, and team travel considerations.

6.3 Education

Education programming will begin during the summer months through communication with student-athletes by the athletic trainers. Prior to COVID-19, athletic trainers, under

the direction of Head Athletic Trainer Patrick O’Sullivan and Associate Head Athletic Trainer Melanie Gran, required each student-athlete to submit documentations on physicals, sickle cell tests and insurance, to be completed prior arrival on campus for preseason practice. Online training on COVID-19 will now be included in these Health requirements for student-athletes. Education will continue during each team’s required compliance in-person meetings. These mandatory meetings occur by sport with a compliance officer representative and athletic trainer. Education will also be included with each monthly all-staff meeting that occurs the first Wednesday of each month and includes all full-time, part-time and volunteer coaches, staff and interns within the athletic department.

6.4 PPE Supplies and Equipment

In accordance with recommendations from the Health and Safety Committee, personal protective equipment (PPE) will be procured for the entire university by the Facilities Management team. The athletic training room and other areas, including athletic facilities, will be outfitted with masks, spray bottles, sanitizer, etc. as well as visual educational documents regarding the proper procedure for removal and disposal.

6.5 Screening procedures

Screening protocols for all students, faculty and staff will be based on recommendations from the Health and Safety Committee as well as guidelines set forth by the RIDOH. These screening protocols will now include a COVID-19 history questionnaire, timeline for when screening will occur, an outline risk assessment for individuals with high-risk factors such as age, heart disease, lung disease (asthma), diabetes, high blood pressure, immune compromised, etc.

6.6 Pre-participation Exam and COVID-19 Testing

Bryant Athletics will follow the testing protocols developed by the Health and Safety Committee for all Bryant students, faculty and staff and require that all student-athletes and staff follow university protocols regarding contact tracing. Tests (PCR) of all athletes will be required 14 days before arrival, or if unavailable in their home state, on campus, with athlete quarantines until results are known. All athletes will then be retested within four (4) days of returning except those who were tested on arrival.

6.7 COVID-19 Positive Cases

Bryant University’s Athletic Trainers will work with the University and RIDOH in developing protocols for individuals who test positive. Determinations will include

Health care if appropriate, isolation, quarantine, and return to play decisions based on Health and Safety Committee protocols for return to campus life.

6.8 Travel Considerations

All protocols will follow guidelines set forth by Bryant University for students, faculty and staff, including limitations to traveling out of state, particularly in areas considered high-risk (hot-spots) and isolation/quarantine measures developed the Health and Safety Committee.

6.9 Facilities

All facilities will operate with social distancing and occupancy guidelines as outlined by the RIDOH, CDC, and Bryant University guidelines regarding use of athletic facilities for team, individuals, campus community including students, faculty and staff, and outside visitors and members of the Smithfield community.

The full report outlines protocols for each athletic facility including, the Chace Wellness and Athletic Center, the Bulldog Strength and Conditioning Center building, Conaty Indoor Athletic Center, Beirne Stadium Complex, and outside facilities which include the track and turf complex, tennis courts, Conaty Baseball and Softball complex, practice fields and recreation areas.

6.10 Cleaning Procedures and Communication of Policies

Under the guidance of the Facilities Committee and following recommendations by the RIDOH, cleaning and maintenance of facilities will include maintaining records which will document date, time, location, and procedures for each facility, ensuring all employees of the university are aware of their role in implementing procedures and protocols. Educational posters provided by the NATA, RIDOH, CDC, and the NCAA, as well as internal communication documents, will be placed in key locations throughout all athletic facilities including locker rooms, main entranceway, restrooms, etc.

Athletic communications will utilize social media channels and athletic website with communication distribution including, but not limited to graphics and video PSA's to student-body, student-athletes, faculty and staff as well as visiting teams and fans.

Use of facilities will be limited in accordance with RIDOH recommendations and based on the current Phase for Re-Opening RI by the State. Access and hours of operation will be outlined by each facility to ensure enhanced cleaning procedures, occupancy and social distancing guidelines are met.

6.11 Varsity Sports Team Season

6.11.1 Gathering Size

In order to follow social distancing guidelines as recommended by the RIDOH, NCAA Resocialization of Collegiate Sport, and Bryant University, protocols will be in place for team activities including for groups that fall within the range of 10, 25, 50, and 100+ participants. This will include, but is not limited to, team practices (including coaches and warmups), team meetings, and locker room access. To accommodate these guidelines, access to locker rooms as well as training room will be monitored with the use of training room services available at various practice sites for basic practice preparation (taping).

6.11.2 Preseason Schedule and Competition

The goal is to follow the preseason schedule for all fall sports using the NCAA Resocialization model. The attached full committee report outlines each scheduled reporting to campus date for all fall sport programs and scheduled first competition dates. Fall sports include women's soccer (scheduled reporting date of Aug. 4), football (Aug. 7), women's volleyball (Aug. 10), men's soccer (Aug. 12), field hockey (Aug. 12), and men's and women's cross country (Aug. 20). Men's golf and men's and women's tennis conduct their championship season in the spring, but schedule competitions in the fall and do not report to campus until the start of classes.

Winter and Spring sports teams will follow the NCAA Resocialization of Sport model. Delayed starts to winter and non-championship sports seasons may occur if deemed necessary.

6.11.3 In-Season Operations and Policies

The full committee report outlines proposed policies and procedures regarding Athletic Training Room access, location of satellite operations, and assignments to adhere to proper social distancing guidelines. In addition, policies regarding Game Operations, Equipment and Laundry services, team travel, meals and campus housing are outlined.

6.11.4 Visiting Team / Officials / Fans

Visiting teams, officials and fans will be required to satisfy the screening process developed by Health and Safety committee prior to entering campus. Bryant students, faculty and staff may be allowed to attend games consistent with occupancy and social

distancing guidelines. No fans except students, faculty, and staff will be allowed to attend athletes contests unless DOH and national guidelines change.

6.11.5 Club Sports

Club sports participation for both practice and competition will follow the same protocols required for varsity sports, as noted in the full report. In addition, club sports will use guidelines from the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) and related National Governing Bodies. Use of Athletic Training Room facilities will be limited and under the discretion of Head Athletic Trainer. This will include consultation with Club Sports Trainer or medical professional. The full committee report outlines the timeline for club sports team start dates for practice and competition.

6.11.6 Intramurals

As part of the Bryant University re-opening plan for the academic year, intramural programs for the student body will continue. Participation in intramural program will be based on the RIDOH and University guidelines for social distancing and group size (10, 25, 50, and 100+). Facility access and hours may be limited to accommodate University needs as well as to allow for enhanced cleaning procedures. All participants in the intramural program are required to use proper sanitizer supplied at each facility and clean all equipment and gear.

6.12 Recreation

Open recreation (open-gym) at various facilities, including the Chace Athletic Center main gym and Multipurpose Athletic Center (MAC) will be available, however hours and use may be reduced to allow for University needs and social distancing guidelines. These guides, in alignment with Bryant University campus policies, will also include the group exercise room, track, outdoor volleyball and basketball courts, tennis courts, golf practice area, and walking trails. Access to the Chace Center pool and racquetball / squash courts will be limited and outlined in facilities section of the full committee report. All spaces will have regular appropriate cleaning of equipment.