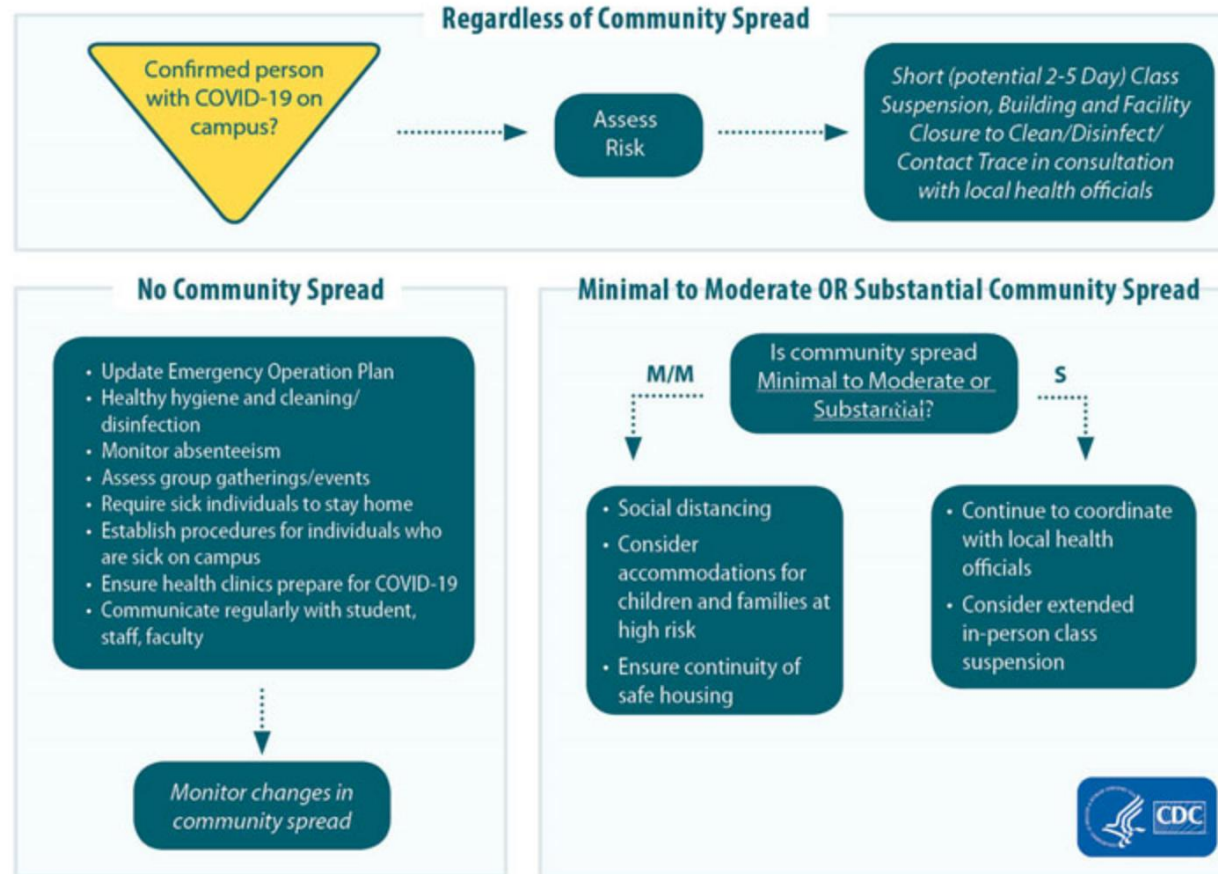


# Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-Updated Guidance on March 18



## Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) Decision Tree



# Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-Updated Guidance on March 18



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html>

- Institutions of higher education (IHE), working together with local health departments, have an important role in slowing the spread of diseases, and protecting vulnerable students, staff, and faculty to help ensure a safe and healthy learning environment.
- Guidance for IHE is organized into three categories based on the level of community transmission: 1) when there is no community transmission (preparedness phase), 2) when there is minimal to moderate community transmission, and 3) when there is substantial community transmission. Consult with your local health department to determine what level of transmission is currently occurring in your community.
- Guidance is also provided for when a confirmed case has entered an IHE, regardless of community transmission.
- All decisions about implementing IHE-based strategies (e.g., class suspensions, event cancellations, other social distancing measures) should be made in collaboration with local health officials.

# U.S. Department of Education



- 3/17 [Information](#) Regarding Flexibilities on Accreditation
- 3/20 [COVID-19 FAQs](#)
- New Title IX rules and Section 117 expected to be unveiled soon, but the higher education community would like to deal with this after the emergency has passed

# Veterans Affairs



- President Trump [signed S. 3503](#) on March 21
- Under the previous law, veterans' benefits would change due to programs moving online.
- The new law authorizes the Secretary to disregard the online/in-person distinction in emergency situations and runs through Dec 21, 2020
- This move was supported by SHEEO and the higher education community

# Veterans Affairs



## Other VA issues

- 1) delimiting period (if a vets benefits were set to expire this spring, but they cannot attend classes, extending this time)
- 2) additional authority for VA to pay veterans "VA Work Study" payments even vets are unable to continue in the VA work study approved jobs.
- 3) reinstating benefits for veterans who used benefits this spring for courses that they now are unable to take.

# Health and Human Services



- Concern regarding campus mental health professionals' inability to practice across state lines
- HHS Secretary Azar wrote to the governors on March 24<sup>th</sup> asking them to allow health professionals certified in other states to practice their state
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# U.S. Department of State/DI



U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

- On March 19, the State Department [told all Americans](#) to avoid travel international travel
- They have also urged Americans abroad to come home unless they plan to stay there indefinitely
- Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs is requiring 1.5K program participants to come home
- State Department is working to get students and others from overseas home, but some have been stranded as other nations close their borders and stop internal flights



# Census



- On March 15, Census put out [a memo](#) on modifications for operations due to COVID-19, as well as an update for [campus housing administrators](#).
  - During our recent 2020 Census Group Quarters Advance Contact operation we contacted college/university student housing administrators to get their input on the enumeration methods that will allow students to participate in the 2020 Census.
  - Nearly half, about 47 percent, have chosen the eResponse methodology and about 7 percent chose paper listings, both of which provide the Census Bureau directory information (electronically or via paper records) about each student. About 35 percent, however, chose drop-off/pick-up which allows students to self-respond using an Individual Census Questionnaire (or ICQ). We are contacting those schools to ask whether they would like to change that preference in light of the emerging situation.
  - In general, students in colleges and universities temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 virus will still be counted as part of this process. Even if they are home on census day, [April 1](#), they should be counted according to the residence criteria which states they should be counted where they live and sleep most of the time. We are asking schools to contact their students and remind them to respond.
  - Per the Census Bureau's residence criteria, in most cases students living away from home at school should be counted at school, even if they are temporarily elsewhere due to the COVID-19 pandemic.