Virginia’s Higher Education Reopening Guidance

PRESENTED BY VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF EDUCATION ATIF QARNI
Virginia’s public and private college and universities can begin to offer in-person instruction and reopen campuses.

But they must do so while following all relevant guidance in EO’s, the Forward Virginia Blueprint and relevant public health guidelines.

They must also submit comprehensive reopening plans to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.
Updated Executive Order 65

Allows for some return to in-person instruction and other activities:

• Institutions of higher education are encouraged to continue remote learning where practical. However, such institutions may offer in-person classes and instruction, including labs and related practical training, provided they comply with all applicable requirements under the "Guidelines for All Business Sectors."

• No institutions of higher education shall hold or host gatherings of more than 50 individuals.

• Any postsecondary provider offering vocational training in a profession regulated by a Virginia state agency/board must also comply with any sector-specific guidelines relevant to that profession to the extent possible under the regulatory training requirements. Such professions may include, but are not necessarily limited to: aesthetician, barber, cosmetologist, massage therapist, nail technician, and practical nurse.
Virginia’s Higher Education Reopening Guidance

- Aligns in-person instruction and campus reopening with the Forward Virginia Blueprint and CDC and VDH guidance.
- Follows VDH guidance on testing, outlined in the VDH Higher Education Testing Guidance document.
- Asks institutions to develop comprehensive plans that address the health and safety of their students, faculty, and staff.
- Recognizes the different missions and circumstances among Virginia’s institutions.
Virginia’s Campus Reopening Plan

Necessary public health conditions to be met for campuses to reopen:

• positive trends in public health data

• surge health care capacity

• climate of adherence to sound public health principles among students, faculty, staff, and other constituencies

• covid-19 campus preparedness plans developed and consistent with guidance set forth by the commonwealth
Virginia’s Campus Reopening Plan

The comprehensive plans at a minimum must address:

• Repopulation of the Campus

• Monitoring Health Conditions to Detect Infection

• Containment to Prevent Spread of the Disease When Detected

• Shutdown Considerations If Necessitated by Severe Conditions and/or Public Health Guidance
Virginia’s Campus Reopen Plan

• Plans are reviewed for compliance by the State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV)

• Plans should be made publicly available on an institution’s website

• Plans may be updated as additional federal or state guidance is provided.

• Any updates to an institutions plan must be communicated to SCHEV.
Detailed Guidance Documents

- Higher Education Reopening Guidance -
- VDH Higher Education Testing Guidance –
- VDH : Role of Public Health and Colleges/Universities in Preparedness and Response Efforts –
- VDH Higher Education Contact Tracing Partnership –
- CDC Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education -
- ACHA Considerations for Reopening for Higher Ed: