

How to Open Up Safely in the Fall

AGB Consulting Webinar

David Rowe PhD, Jenifer K. Ward PhD and Jay B. Varkey, MD

June 23, 2020

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- Please contact AGB to follow up or schedule a meeting and additional discussion.



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Chat

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Webinar ID: 568-217-123

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Panelists and Host



- **David Rowe, PhD (moderator)**
 - Senior Consultant AGB



- **Jenifer K. Ward, PhD**
 - President, Luther College (IA)



- **Jay B. Varkey, MD**
 - Associate Professor, Infectious Diseases, Emory University



- **Chris Moloney (host)**
 - Sr. Associate, AGB Consulting

Overview

- Context
- Luther College's Plan for Fall 2020
- Public Health Considerations and Cautions

Context: Landscape

- Enrollment: Up to 20% Decline - Worse if Online Only
 - [SimsponScarborough Study \(4-Year Colleges\) April 29, 2020](#)
- 65% of Traditional Undergraduate Institutions Planning for In-person Instruction
 - [The Chronicle of Higher Education June 18, 2020](#)
- 45% of Board Chairs, 41% of Presidents Plan for In-person Instruction in the Fall
 - [AGB Study May 27, 2020](#)

Context: Budgetary Risk

- Tuition
 - Enrollment Declines
 - Increased Discount Rate
 - Reduced Price for Online Learning
- Room and Board
 - Refunds
 - Proration
- Athletics
 - Gate and Guarantees
 - Enrollment: Tuition, Room and Board
- Increased Expenses
 - Technology/Staffing
 - Professional Development

Context: Mission and Identity

- Method = Mission for Many Residential Colleges
- Student Experience and Support Services
- Not only In-person but Place-based Education
- Individualized and Responsive Attention
- Campus Life and Athletics

Context: Existential Threat

- Budget
- Mission and Identity
- Thoroughly Develop Plans: A, B AND C
- Plan A for Many: How (vs Whether) to Open

Luther College

- Calendar
- Mitigating Risk
- Governmental and Consortial Resources

Luther College: Calendar

- Traditional 4-1-4 Modified for 2020 - 2021
- September Term
 - 1 Course x 4 Weeks
- 2 Fall Quarters
 - 2 Courses x 7 Weeks Each
- Spring Semester
 - 4 Courses x 15 Weeks
- June Term
 - 1 Course x 4 Weeks

Luther College: Calendar

- Phases Re-entry of Students
- Build Cohort Experience for Students
- Travel Courses Moved to June
 - Hopefully Corresponding to Vaccine Success
- Fall Quarters: Flexible and Adaptive
 - In case of second wave

Luther College: Mitigating Risk

- Cannot Eliminate Risk
- Particular Challenges: DIII Fall Athletics; Music Ensembles and Performances
- Minimize Employees Located on Campus
- Space Planning
 - Repurposing Most Spaces to Academic
 - HVAC Audit
 - Plexiglass barriers at Point of Service Areas
 - Dining Services Safety Measures
 - Isolation and Quarantine Residential Accommodations
- Health Partnerships: Public and Private
 - Randomized Testing, PPE Purchases, Face Mask Education

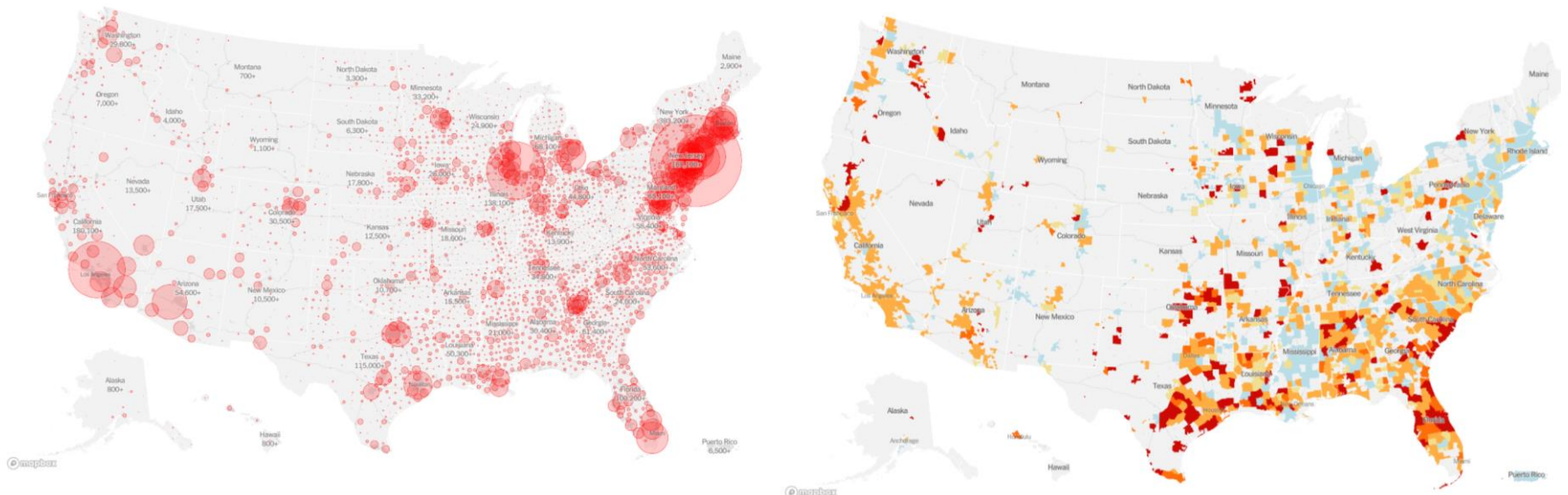
Luther College: Resources

- [CDC Guidelines for Colleges and Universities](#)
- WHO and State Departments of Health
- Higher Education
 - National: CIC, NAICU, ACE, AICU, AGB
 - Consortial:
 - Associated Colleges of the Midwest
 - Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
 - American Rivers Conference (NCAA Div. III Athletics)

Public Health Considerations

- Situational Awareness
- Assumptions
- Arrival and Entry into “the Bubble”
- Keeping “the Bubble” from Popping
- High-yield Takeaway Points

Public Health Considerations Situational Awareness (as of June 22, 2020)



- United States: >2,300,000 cases, >120,000 deaths
- Number of new cases
 - Increasing in 23 states/territories
 - Decreasing in 18 states/territories
 - Stable in 12 states/territories

Public Health Considerations Assumptions

- During a pandemic with widespread community transmission, *risk cannot be eliminated—the goal is to reduce risk*
- We cannot rely (yet) on “herd immunity”
- Students, faculty, and staff are likely to be infected—key issue is what will be the response
 - Identify: Testing capacity
 - Isolate: Disposition of infected and quarantine of exposed
 - Disposition of infected
 - Quarantine of exposed, but uninfected
 - Contact-trace: What, who, where, when and HOW???
 - Operations and Communication: 2 separate tasks but intertwined
 - Internal communication to students, staff and faculty
 - External communication to general public and the role of media
- Picture of pandemic is likely to look very different this winter compared to this fall
 - Role of seasonal flu, and Phase 3 vaccine results

Public Health Considerations Arrival and Entry in to “the Bubble”

- Role of testing students, student-facing staff including faculty, prior to opening schools for residential purposes
- Role of testing family members prior to move-in
- Testing at home prior to moving-in -> Re-testing after 3-7 days after arrival

Public Health Considerations

Keeping “the Bubble” from popping

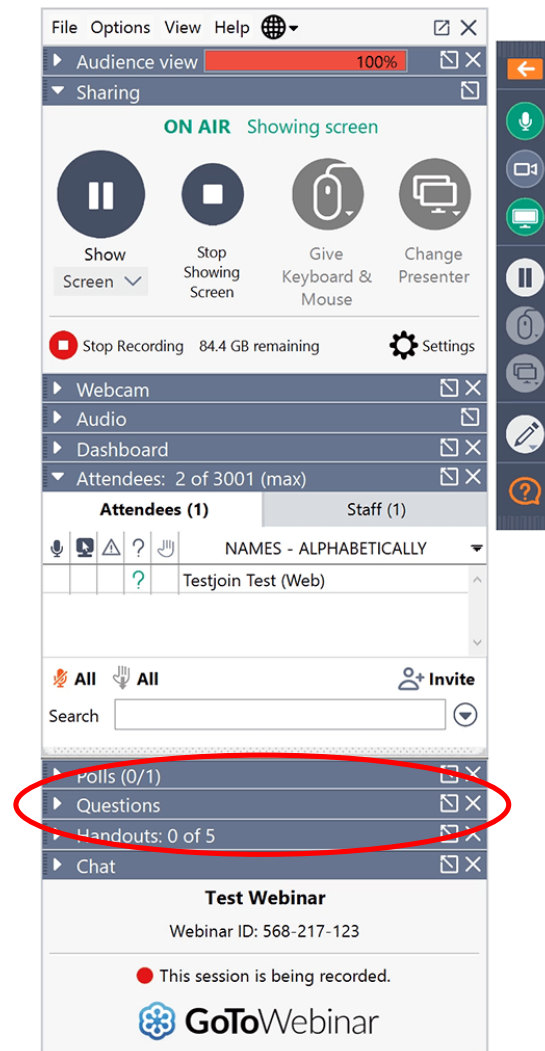
- Residential family units—up to 10 people
 - Mutual accountability and collective responsibility for the well-being of one another
- Physical Distancing
 - Greatest tool—hardest to implement
 - Risk of dining and drinking
 - Enforcement: Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good
- Face coverings: “My mask protects YOU. Your mask protects ME. Our masks protect EACH OTHER.”
- Restricted visitation vs town/gown
- Testing algorithms: Who, when, and how?
- Protecting the most vulnerable: Older adults, adults with comorbid conditions, persons of color

Public Health Considerations High-Yield Takeaway Points

- Opening up in Fall 2020 has associated risks
- How to reduce risk?
 - Less people is better than more people
 - Outside is better than inside
 - When at all possible, stay at least 6 feet apart and wear a mask

Dialogue

- Conversation between Jenifer and Jay
- **Live Q&A:** Please submit your questions via the GoToWebinar Control Panel now.



Resources and Contact Info

- OpenSmartEDU.org 
- [AGB Consulting](https://www.agb.org): **202-776-0868**
 - Chris Moloney: cmoloney@agb.org
 - Dr. David Rowe: drowe@agb.org
 - Dr. Jenifer K. Ward: president@luther.edu
 - Dr. Jay Varkey: jay.varkey@emory.edu
- AGB's Ask the Expert Session:
 - **Trustee Education: Enrollment Market Research for Fall 2020**
(with David Rowe and Elizabeth Scarborough)
 - **July 9, 2020 at 11am ET**
 - [REGISTER HERE](#) or visit www.agb.org/services/ask-the-expert
- David's blog on [Opening up Safely in Fall 2020](#)