How to Open Up Safely in the Fall

AGB Consulting Webinar

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

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Interact with us today

- Slides/recordings will be made available following the webinar
- Send us questions or comments
- Please contact AGB to follow up or schedule a meeting and additional discussion.
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:** 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](http://www.agb.org/services/ask-the-expert)

- **David’s blog on Opening up Safely in Fall 2020**