

Helping to keep campuses open and healthy: COVID-19 testing and screening for higher education



As colleges and universities across the nation work toward keeping campuses open, they are faced with the tough decision of whether to implement distance learning, in-person classes or a hybrid approach. For those heading back to or already on campus and hoping to prevent broader outbreaks, there are multiple resources to consider for improving the safety of students, faculty and staff.

Perspective on COVID-19 testing

Optum® has developed a continuum based on CDC guidelines to help colleges and universities develop their return-to-campus strategy. Masking, physical distancing and proper hygiene are primary protection measures. Optum does not consider COVID-19 testing a requirement for a return-to-campus strategy, however, when academic institutions decide to leverage testing, there are various resources available.



Testing is appropriate in certain circumstances such as environments where:

- Physical distancing is not possible
- Virus exposure is prevalent
- Contact with high-risk individuals is prevalent
- Community infections are high or increasing



A *New York Times* survey of more than 1,600 American colleges and universities has revealed **at least 88,000 cases**, including staff and students, since the pandemic began.¹

Tackling the challenge together

As one of the largest employers of clinicians in the United States, Optum has the experience and expertise to help academic institutions return to campus as safely as possible.

Optum COVID-19 testing and screening resources follow **Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) guidelines.**

Optum foundational solutions for fighting COVID-19

Informed by our clinical experience, Optum assembled relevant and helpful solutions that are ideal for higher education institutions to implement among the student population, faculty and campus staff.

Resources to help keep your campus open and healthy



ProtectWell™ platform symptom checker

Through daily symptom screening done on a mobile device, ProtectWell helps students, faculty and staff understand when they are safe to participate in person, when they should manage their symptoms by quarantining at home or dorm, or whether they should get tested.



NurseLine

NurseLine provides 24/7 telephone access to compassionate support and health education and guidance when needed. This cost-effective program provides symptom support, health education and help locating a network provider or facility.

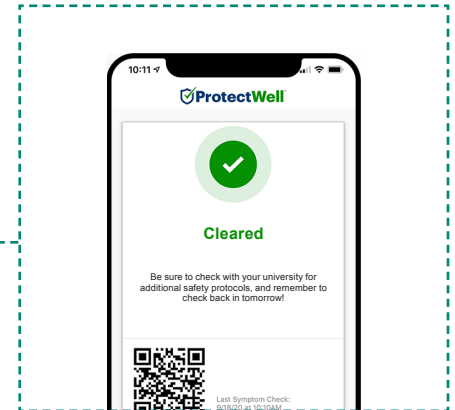


COVID-19 testing On-campus testing

This full-service program from Optum tests students, faculty and staff on campus for COVID-19. It includes the logistics and technology, staffing (providers and administrative), laboratory results and outreach.

Remote test kits

Remote testing helps address distributed populations, testing asymptomatic and symptomatic students and staff with little or no exposure to others. This service includes easy-to-follow instructions, convenient shipping options, timely lab results communicated within 24–48 hours and integrated clinical support for those with positive test results.



THE VALUE OF PARTNERING WITH OPTUM

30+ YEARS

meeting the on-site health
needs of organizations

1 million+

COVID-19 tests conducted¹

800+

colleges and
universities served²

1. The *New York Times*. Tracking coronavirus cases at U.S. colleges and universities. [nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/covid-college-cases-tracker.html](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/covid-college-cases-tracker.html). Updated September 10, 2020. Accessed September 14, 2020.
2. Optum book of business, September 2020.
3. Ibid.



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