







Huron produces regular **Findings Updates** summarizing relevant trends and headlines related to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on higher education.

### Latest Trends and Headlines

Trend Category	Trend Summary	Today's Headlines
 <p><b>Re-Opening Operations</b></p>	<p>Universities continue to announce, revise, and execute operating plans that were disrupted by the pandemic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>College campuses drove some of the nation's biggest COVID outbreaks this fall. Now will they <a href="#">require the vaccine</a>?</li> <li>The COVID-19 vaccine is here, but it may be too late for some colleges to <a href="#">save their spring semesters</a>.</li> <li>New data shows deaths from the coronavirus have risen far faster in <a href="#">counties with large college student populations</a>.</li> <li><a href="#">Michigan State University</a> will require its students returning in January to show proof of a flu shot and COVID test.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Student &amp; Enrollment Impact</b></p>	<p>The pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for students, and in turn, enrollment risks for many institutions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than a third of students are <a href="#">reconsidering enrolling in college</a> due to COVID-19, a new survey finds.</li> <li>COVID-19 has made <a href="#">college application season</a> more stressful than ever for high school seniors.</li> <li>Colleges are <a href="#">cancelling spring break</a> and opting for "Wellness Days" instead.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Financial Impact</b></p>	<p>Universities continue to use cuts, spending freezes, and other means to address funding gaps created by the pandemic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">UNC</a> now expects the financial impact of COVID-19 to be over a billion dollars.</li> <li><a href="#">George Washington University</a> announced a second round of layoffs for over 330 employees in an attempt to close a budget gap of \$180 million.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Research Impact</b></p>	<p>Universities continue to ramp-up research activities, including activities directly related to COVID-19 research.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research performed at the <a href="#">University of Minnesota</a> shows that women and communities of color have experienced a higher occurrence in layoffs during the pandemic and are also disproportionately employed at higher-risk jobs.</li> <li>A team led by <a href="#">Ball State University</a> found Bhutanese and Burmese refugees that are essential workers face a disproportionately higher risk of COVID-19 infection than non-immigrants.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Potential Transformation to Higher Ed</b></p>	<p>The pandemic's economic and social impact could accelerate transformational change in higher education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No updates for today's newsletter.</i></li> </ul>
 <p><b>Other Emerging Trends</b></p>	<p>Universities continue to address emerging trends while operating through the pandemic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No updates for today's newsletter</i></li> </ul>

## Today's Article Summaries

### A. Re-Opening Operations

- [College Campuses Drove Major COVID-19 Outbreaks. Now, Will They Require the Vaccine?](#)
  - With the first doses of vaccine ready, states are prioritizing frontline health workers and other vulnerable populations as the first to be immunized. However, colleges and students are also front of mind considering that college students fueled some of the nation's top outbreaks this fall.
  - The American College Health Association has not made a decision about whether colleges should require the COVID-19 vaccine – it's waiting for guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
  - Some elected officials have already said they won't require vaccination for college students, including Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee and New York Mayor Bill de Blasio.
- [For Colleges, Vaccines Come Too Late to Save the Spring Semester](#)
  - Colleges can't count on a coronavirus vaccine to save the spring semester, exposing even deeper financial risks than those confronted this past semester.
  - For the first time in at least 20 years, colleges are confronting back-to-back fiscal years of declining revenue.
  - Enrollment of freshmen is down 13% through Oct. 22, according to a survey by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. All undergrad enrollment is down about 4.4% compared with last year.
- [Young People Have Less COVID-19 Risk, But in College Towns, Deaths Rose Fast](#)
  - As coronavirus deaths soar across the country, deaths in communities that are home to colleges have risen faster than the rest of the nation, according to a New York Times analysis of 203 counties where students compose at least 10 percent of the population.
  - Since the end of August, deaths from the coronavirus have doubled in counties with a large college population, compared with a 58 percent increase in the rest of the nation.
  - Since the pandemic began, a Times survey has identified more than 397,000 infections at more than 1,800 colleges and universities. Those cases include more than 90 deaths involving college employees and students.
- [Michigan State University Is Requiring Flu Shots & COVID-19 Tests for Students Returning in January](#)
  - All students returning to live on campus at Michigan State University or attend classes in person next month will be required to get a flu shot and submit to routine COVID-19 testing.
  - The flu shot mandate applies to any students living in or visiting any MSU facility during the spring semester. Students must obtain the flu vaccine and provide proof that they received it before returning to campus.
  - Students returning to East Lansing will be asked to quarantine for 10 to 14 days.

### B. Student & Enrollment Impact

- [COVID Has Upended Students' College Plans in Many Ways](#)
  - More than a third of students are reconsidering enrolling in college due to the COVID pandemic, a new survey finds.
  - 43% of students that had been considering one- and two-year programs may put off enrollment, and two-thirds of students are now considering career-oriented alternatives.
  - Some 40% of students said they are exploring other financial support options as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as self-funding their education.
- [COVID-19 Has Made College Application Season More Stressful Than Ever for High School Seniors](#)
  - In 2020, experts worry that the consequences of the newfound uncertainties of a traditional college life and the added pressures of pandemic life are making an already taxing application process that much harder.

- Compared to last year, nearly 22% fewer high school seniors who graduated in 2020 went to college in the fall, according to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center.
- For many college students, especially low income students, the pressures of finances, mental health issues, housing and food insecurity and more have made focusing on preparing for a college education nearly impossible.
- [Colleges replace spring break with “Wellness Days”](#)
  - Spring breaks are being cancelled by many colleges in an effort to contain COVID-19 and avoid travel by their students.
  - In order to avoid another pandemic semester with no break and potential burnout, colleges are introducing “wellness days”. Classes will be cancelled on a handful of days (usually weekdays) sprinkled throughout the spring semester. Some colleges plan to offer wellness programming on the selected days.
  - Student response to the idea has varied. The Undergraduate Assembly at the University of Pennsylvania asked for more wellness days to be added. Other students, like the ones at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, have given more pushback. They describe administrators as out of touch with the needs of their students for thinking “a mere two days off in the middle of the week are enough to help students cope with an increasingly stressful semester.”

### C. Financial Impact

- [How UNC’s Budget Challenges Have Grown Since the Onset of the Pandemic](#)
  - UNC continues to experience growing financial challenges, with the potential impact extending over \$1 billion.
  - Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz said that while the full severity is still unknown, financial challenges remain focused within three areas: a structural budget deficit, COVID-19 revenue losses and deferred maintenance.
  - Additionally, the pandemic continues to affect UNC’s income-producing auxiliary units — housing; dining; transportation and parking; campus health; athletics; and the faculty practice at the school of medicine. Knuffman said these impacts could be as high as \$200 million this fiscal year.
- [Layoffs at George Washington Total 339, Savings \\$32 Million](#)
  - Officials announced Friday they have laid off 339 employees and have concluded all expected layoffs to mitigate the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Provost Brian Blake and Chief Financial Officer Mark Diaz told employees in an email that the layoffs saved GW \$32 million – roughly 18 percent of the University’s projected annual budget gap – and impacted 29 different units.
  - Officials had initially said layoffs would be completed by the start of the semester but continued to eliminate positions well into the fall. Many of the layoffs were implemented as part of broader centralizations of GW’s various administrative units

### D. Research Impact

- [COVID-19 Pandemic ‘Sharpens’ Inequalities Among Minnesota Workers, UMN Research Finds](#)
  - A new study by the University of Minnesota Center on Women, Gender and Public Policy found that “women and communities of color have borne both the brunt of essential work and layoffs during the pandemic.”
  - The [report](#) calls for greater support and resources for communities impacted by the pandemic in Minnesota.
  - A crucial finding was that many stimulus packages did not reach those who needed them most.
- [Study: Immigrant essential workers are at high risk of COVID-19 infection](#)
  - A study conducted by researchers at Ball State University, the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health found that Bhutanese and Burmese refugees in the US who were essential workers had increased risk of contracting COVID-19.

- The [study](#), 'COVID-19 and Immigrant Essential Workers: Bhutanese and Burmese Refugees in the United States' showed a significant difference in the number of refugee essential workers that contracted COVID-19 versus those who did not.
- The study was published in the November issue of Public Health Reports.

**E. Potential Transformation to Higher Education**

- *No updates for today's newsletter.*

**F. Other Emerging Trends**

- *No updates for today's newsletter.*

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Title	Author	Date
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<a href="#">Huron Social Alliance: Supporting Institutions that Support Low-Income Students</a>	Brenna Casey	11/09/2020
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<a href="#">Pricing Today and Tomorrow</a>	Peter Stokes, Steve Hahn	09/16/2020
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<a href="#">Test Scores: Optional?</a>	Kristine Dillon, Steve Hahn, Ben Chrischilles	09/01/2020
<a href="#">Fall Is Not Lost: Student Engagement Strategies to Improve 2020 Enrollments</a>	Steve Hahn	08/10/2020
<a href="#">The Post-Pandemic Evolution of Student Data Privacy</a>	Merritt Neale Matthew Tryniecki	08/10/2020
<a href="#">Infographic: Tuition Pricing Strategies for the Fall</a>	Colin McWilliams	08/26/2020
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<a href="#">Manage Compliance and Financial Risks in Times of Change</a>	Laura Humberger	11/05/2020
<a href="#">Closing the Gap</a>	Mike Cogan, Peter Hart	11/04/2020
<a href="#">Strategic Higher Education M&amp;A: Assessing Institutional Readiness</a>	Robert Spencer	09/11/2020
<a href="#">Thinking Different about Strategic Alliances in Higher Education</a>	Robert Spencer	08/25/2020
<a href="#">Major &amp; Minor Cuts: Academic Program Eliminations in the Age of COVID-19</a>	Jeremy Wolos	07/31/2020
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Potential Transformation to Higher Education		
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<a href="#">Empowering Agile Decision Making in Higher Education</a>	Mark Finlan	07/01/2020



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