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

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| Re-Opening Operations | Universities continue to announce – and revise – expectations for fall instruction, residence life, and athletics operations. | ▪ **Syracuse University** places students on interim suspension for violating quarantine orders.  
▪ **Eastern Carolina University** announces that students will face fines for attending classes without a face covering.  
▪ The number of colleges reversing previously announced plans to bring many of their students back to campus this fall has continued to climb. |
| Student Impact, Admissions & Enrollment | The pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for students, and in turn enrollment risks for many institutions. | ▪ Institutions across the state of Texas are requiring test results and a period of isolation as a prerequisite to students’ return to campus.  
▪ Uncertainty regarding the opportunity for in-person instruction at colleges and universities nationwide is leading students and families to consider not attending in the fall. |
| Financial Impact & Response Actions | Universities continue to use spending freezes, layoffs, and other means to address funding gaps created by the pandemic. | ▪ **Harvey Mudd College** has announced that if students are not allowed in-person in the fall, the institution will begin furloughs to limit the impact of a projected $12 million revenue shortfall.  
▪ **Public colleges and universities** are facing financial challenges as the economic crisis limits state tax collections and students are opting to not return to campus. |
| Research Re-Entry & Contributions | Universities continue to ramp-up research activities, including activities directly related to researching COVID-19. | ▪ A team at **Columbia University** discovered a correlation between the immune system’s complement branch and severity of COVID-19 infection.  
▪ **Washington University** researchers have designed a less severe virus model of SARS-CoV-2 that acts and responds like the virus. |
| Potential Transformation to Higher Ed | The pandemic’s economic and social impact could accelerate transformational change in higher education. | ▪ No updates for today’s newsletter. |
| Other Headlines & Emerging | Universities continue to address emerging trends while operating through the pandemic. | ▪ The NCAA announced that Division II’s seven 2020 fall championships are canceled.  
▪ The **University of Louisville** has sidelined four fall sports as the result of 29 positive COVID-19 tests linked primarily to an off-campus party.  
▪ College leaders are responding to pressure from student-athletes to prioritize their health during the pandemic.  
▪ **Canadian travel restrictions** have been extended and may hinder non-Canadian students from being able to travel to campus. |

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A. Re-Opening Operations

- **Syracuse University places students on interim suspension for violating quarantine orders.**
  - Less than a week after officially welcoming students back to campus, Syracuse has placed a group of students on interim suspension for violating the state’s mandatory quarantine rules.
  - The school formally welcomed a group of freshman to campus last weekend to quarantine in dorm rooms, while the number of students quarantining off campus has been steadily growing so that students can get the state quarantine completed by the start of the school year.
  - Students arriving to campus from high-risk states are subject to a mandatory two-week quarantine and those quarantining off campus are not permitted on SU’s campus until they have gone through the quarantine process.

- **Eastern Carolina University students will face fines for attending class without a face covering.**
  - A letter from ECU’s Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Associate Vice Chancellor Dean of Students to faculty instructs them to ask students to put on a face covering if they arrive for class without one.
  - If the student does not comply, professors can report the student according to the school’s Disruptive Academic Behavior policy.
  - A first report will result in a warning letter, while the penalty for a second report is a letter and a $50 fine.
  - A third report results in a meeting with an administrator, which could result in a $100 fine or probation, and individuals who receive four or more reports will be reviewed for possible separation from the school.

- **The number of colleges reversing previously announced plans to bring many of their students back to campus this fall has continued to climb.**
  - The College of New Jersey and Drew University in New Jersey announced they would move to almost entirely virtual instruction this fall.
  - Santa Clara University has announced that it will suspend plans to bring students back to campus.
  - West Virginia university announced that roughly 60 percent of its courses at its flagship campus would be delivered online.
  - Michigan State University is encouraging that students who can live safely and study successfully at home remain at home for the fall semester.
  - Smith College and Berklee College of Music in Massachusetts announced that they would operate fully online.
  - Other schools, meanwhile, are sticking to their plans to reopen physical campuses, including Purdue University, where President Mitch Daniels, stated that COVID-19 posed “essentially zero lethal risk” to Purdue’s students and that “closing down would inflict great harm on” the surrounding community.
  - The University System of New Hampshire also voted 18 to 1 to affirm plans to reopen its campuses this fall.
  - Villanova University is still planning to bring students back to campus but will be providing each student with a portable chair to facilitate moving classes outside when feasible.

B. Student Impact, Admissions & Enrollment

- **Institutions across the state of Texas are requiring test results and a period of isolation as a prerequisite to students’ return to campus.**
  - In Texas and across the country, colleges and universities are adding testing measures to a long list of precautions they are taking to try to curb the potential spread of the virus this fall.
  - Testing requirements for the initial return to campus vary by institution across the state; universities are handling precautions differently depending on their student and campus size.
  - Baylor University is mailing test kits to students to send back to a lab before classes start, which means testing 18,000 students with just over two weeks before the start of the semester.
  - Rice university plans to test students before they check-in for their room assignments. Rice will continue to randomly screen students weekly and isolate students who test positive. The school is
also planning to stagger student arrivals during orientation week.
  ○ Texas A&M is sending 15,000 test kits to its 11 college campuses each month, has set aside $16 million for testing, with a potential FEMA reimbursement of up to 75 percent, and will have a central location for free testing for students, faculty, and staff.
  ○ Not all institutions will be offering free testing; the University of Texas at Austin will charge students $88 for a viral test and $53 for an antibody test.

- Uncertainty regarding the opportunity for in-person instruction at colleges and universities nationwide is leading students and families to consider not attending in the fall.
  ○ With thousands of dollars at stake and a world of unknowns, parents and students are weighing the costs of moving back to campuses, given the risk that classes could return to a virtual setting.
  ○ It can be expensive to send a student to college if he or she will merely be taking classes from his or her dorm room but for many, there are few alternatives other than deciding to take a break from classes this semester.

C. Financial Impact and Response Actions

- Harvey Mudd College has announced that if students are not allowed in-person in the fall, the institution will begin furloughs to limit the impact of a projected $12M revenue shortfall.
  ○ Harvey Mudd College is awaiting guidance from the State of California as to whether the College can resume in-person classes and students will be permitted to return to campus this fall.
  ○ If students are unable to return to campus this fall, the College will face a reduction in revenue of over $12 million.
  ○ Even after a projected 25 percent reduction in non-salary expenses and receipt of CARES Act funding, school leadership believes it is necessary to consider further cost cutting measures, including eliminating the college’s 12 percent retirement contribution, salary reductions, and furloughs.

- Public colleges and universities are facing financial challenges as the economic crisis limits state tax collections and students are opting not to return to campus.
  ○ With the recession ravaging the finances of millions of American families, as well as students balking at the risk of heading back to campus and fewer arriving from overseas, public college administrators say they expect enrollment to plummet this fall.
  ○ States are being forced to slash subsidies for higher education as record budget deficits mount and the prospect for federal help wanes.
  ○ Craig Lindwear, VP for Government Affairs at the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities, states, “As states continue to feel immense financial pressures, we worry greatly the burden may be disproportionately felt by public higher education.”

D. Research Re-Entry and Contributions

- Ancient part of immune system may underpin severe COVID
  ○ Columbia University researchers explore an immune system branch called complement, which may impact the severity of COVID disease.
  ○ The complement system has proteins that act like antibodies and eliminate pathogens. However, an overactive complement can lead to increased inflammation and clotting in the body.
  ○ One clinical trial is testing the efficacy of complement inhibitors in COVID patients.

- Lab-made virus mimics COVID-19 virus
  ○ A team at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis have tackled the current need to research the coronavirus by creating a genetically modified virus to mimic SARS-CoV-2.
  ○ Scientists developed the safer virus model by swapping a gene from SARS-CoV-2 with a vesicular stomatitis virus.
  ○ Purified antibodies from COVID-19 survivors showed the modified virus was recognized by the antibodies, which will allow researchers to evaluate antibody-based preventatives.

E. Potential Transformation to Higher Education
F. Other Headlines and Emerging Trends

- The NCAA announced that Division II’s seven 2020 fall championships are canceled:
  - Championship events for Division II and III sports have been canceled for the fall 2020 season, with Division I yet to make its decision.
  - Sandra Jordan, Chair of the Division II Presidents Council, stated, “After reviewing and discussing the Board of Governors’ directives, the Division II Presidents Council made the difficult decision that holding fall championships in any capacity was not a viable or fiscally responsible option for Division II.”

- The University of Louisville has sidelined four fall sports as the result of 29 positive COVID-19 tests linked primarily to an off-campus party:
  - The University of Louisville announced that it has temporarily suspended all team-related activities for men’s and women’s soccer, field hockey and volleyball after the positive tests and subsequent contact tracing, which revealed that multiple other teammates and athletes from other sports were exposed and will remain in quarantine.
  - Initially eight athletes tested positive but through contact tracing, athletic officials knew more would be coming down with the virus.
  - That number swelled to 29, and could continue to grow, with more athletes still in quarantine from their participation.

- College leaders are responding to pressure from student-athletes to prioritize their health during the pandemic:
  - Athletes at Division I colleges are increasingly raising red flags about their institutions failing to follow public health protocols to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.
  - The University of Connecticut cancelled its football season after 22 players had missed workouts over the last month due to suspected symptoms of coronavirus.
  - UConn stands alone among its peers in making this decision so early.
  - Football players and athletics staff members at Colorado State University reported that coaches had threatened reduced playing time for athletes who had to quarantine and discouraged players from reporting symptoms.
  - Football players in the Big Ten conference, joined calls by Pac-12 conference athletes for the NCAA to develop unified and improved health and safety protocols for college athletes.
  - The NCAA Board of Governors has released requirements for institutions and athletic conferences to meet in order to conduct sports this fall, and each division will need to determine whether it can meet those conditions.

- Canadian travel restrictions have been extended and may hinder non-Canadian students from being able to travel to campus:
  - The Federal Order in Council for Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada outlines travel restrictions for non-Canadian citizens.
  - The order was due to expire on July 31, but was extended to Aug. 31 with no added exemptions, meaning international students still cannot come into the country.
  - Universities are setting up asynchronous learning so students can watch virtual lectures and do their coursework at a time that best suits them.
Recent Huron Articles

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