TRINITY Together

FALL 2020 PLAN
OVERVIEW

As we look toward life together at Trinity Christian College in Fall 2020, we have developed the following plan that is focused on advancing our mission: to provide a Biblically informed liberal arts education in the Reformed tradition. We remain committed to engaging students who possess a readiness to be an active member of a community based on the Biblical requirements of justice, humility, and love. That same mission calls us to care for students as whole beings. In this season, Trinity’s faithfulness to our mission requires us to hold together significant concerns for campus well-being and our call to educate students in light of God’s life-bringing work. We entrust this semester to God, proceeding in faith that our mission remains vital in the midst of the pandemic and that the pandemic requires us to live deeply into our missional concern for the care of every member of our community.

This semester will be different than any we have experienced. Our challenge, which we readily accept, will be to sustain the distinct character of the Trinity Christian College community. With this in mind, we will have to make adjustments to the typical campus experience and remain flexible and compassionate as we proceed to and through the fall. This plan continues to unfold as circumstances change, and Trinity is committed to ongoing communication as the plan adapts and responds to the challenges the pandemic creates. We invite the Trinity community to approach this semester with a deep commitment to shaping our learning experience together. Those of us who will be on campus (whether to utilize facilities or to live in residence) this fall semester will be called upon to make a serious commitment to alter behaviors in order to protect one another.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | FALL 2020 AS OF AUGUST 5, 2020

Trinity has developed a plan for Fall 2020 that both values the life of each member and seeks the good of our communities - both our Trinity community and the communities in which our Trinity family lives.

Since March, Trinity has committed to flexibility, communication, and compassion in our approach to Christian higher education during the pandemic. The most recent modifications to the Fall 2020 Trinity plan reflect our faithfulness as a Christian learning community to remain vitally committed to our mission while innovating within our context. We remain steadfast in our commitment to whole person education for God, for good, and for the world.

The hallmarks of the Fall 2020 plan include the following:

**Academic Life**
- Students and faculty will be engaging in a majority of their academic work remotely - most classes will now be online and not in person. Limited courses in majors requiring in person work will be held on campus.
- Online course design will be synchronous and/or asynchronous, and faculty will structure online classes in ways that are most pedagogically effective for student learning.
- Students are invited to consult with their own teaching faculty as well as faculty advisors throughout the fall. Faculty will be available for office hours remotely or in-person, at each faculty member’s discretion.
- Campus facilities will be open with appropriate distancing measures and increased infection control measures. Students residing locally are welcome to access campus facilities during open hours for study space. Faculty will engage students from campus spaces at Trinity when possible.
- Offices that support student academic success — including the Office of Learning Services, the Writing Center, and the Jennie Huizenga Memorial Library — will continue to serve students through both in-person and remote capabilities.
- Trinity will add a Trinity Together Remote Learning Support Center specifically designed to support students in the experience of online learning.

**Residence Life and Dining**
- Residence halls will be open with a maximum of one person per bedroom.
- The Dining Hall will be open and operating under social distancing requirements, which will reduce the number of people able to dine at peak times.
- We will also offer a revised and flexible set of dining options, and most meals will be available with “grab and go” service and delivery offerings.

**Student Life and Campus Ministries**
- Public health guidelines constrain the size, duration, and location of programming to a maximum of 50 as of this writing. Some settings are limited further (such as dining tables, fitness center, BBC, and bookstore). Most clubs and student organizations will be engaging online. Limited on-campus programming will be offered within guidelines.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | FALL 2020 AS OF AUGUST 5, 2020

• The DeVos Athletics Complex will be available to student athletes with modified usage protocols including capacity limits in various indoor spaces.
• We expect to offer intramural sports activities that are low health risk. We will pursue new options for recreation and group fitness and increase the number and variety of outdoor activities. We intend to offer options at times of day that are accessible to commuters.
• Offices that support student flourishing — like the Office of Student Engagement, Office of Vocation and Career Development, and Office of Multicultural Engagement — will continue to serve students through both in-person and remote capabilities.
• Campus ministries will be offering pastoral care and worship opportunities remotely. Limited in person worship opportunities may occur on campus as local public health guidelines allow.

Public Health

• Students who will be accessing campus whether residentially or as commuters will be required to submit to rigorous public health protocols.
• Based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, we will utilize a Screen, Test, & Protect protocol to identify and contain potential outbreaks.
• We are expanding the capacity of our team and services to include a Campus Health Coordinator for overseeing COVID-19 health response.
• We will educate our community about how each person can contribute to a healthy and successful semester by following key public health guidelines, including:
  • Daily symptom monitoring via the #CampusClear app
  • Social distancing
  • Wearing face coverings when outside of residence hall rooms
  • Committing to COVID-specific hygiene
  • Enhanced cleaning protocols
  • Getting seasonal flu shots

Ultimately, our approach seeks to embody the Trinity mission – to take seriously the life and health of each member as an image-bearer of God.

Important Dates | Fall 2020

August 11: Housing REVISED application due
August 14: Students notified of REVISED Housing assignments via email, Student Portal Forms available for students to sign
August 21-25: New and continuing student move-in appointments – students will receive appointment information on August 14
August 21: Thrive Program begins online for first time freshmen
August 24: Some evening classes begin online (see course schedules for exceptions)
August 26: Traditional Undergraduate classes begin online (see course schedules for exceptions)
OUR APPROACH | FALL 2020

We continue to adapt to meet public health guidelines and respond to constraints that are required to contain potential outbreaks. We are aware that conditions can change rapidly, as they have since the virus became a pandemic. As such, we seek to protect our people and our mission based on what we know at this time.

A Shared Approach
The success of this semester relies on the shared commitment of our community to the health of all. A semester in which we flourish will depend on all individuals taking responsibility for the role they play in the health of the entire community.

There are four key tenets to the healthy approach we seek:

1) Thrive First Year Student Orientation and Trinity Together Returning Student Orientation Programs
We will educate students, faculty, and staff regarding expectations and requirements for individuals who come to campus this semester. We will provide educational support and resources to help our students and mission to thrive, whether they are on or off campus. Additionally, the Thrive program and Trinity Together Orientation program re-orientation programs will help define our new reality together, including how we live together virtually and on campus. We will share guidelines with staff and faculty that inform their behavior and refocus their daily practices toward supporting the health of the community.

2) Covenant of Care
Dealing with a pandemic requires a collective commitment to following a set of guidelines that ensure respect for everyone in the community. Trinity has developed a Covenant of Care which includes an agreement to self-monitor symptoms, wear face coverings, adhere to social distancing and gathering guidelines, and comply with testing and contact tracing, as needed. Each student and employee will be asked to sign a pledge of their commitment to implement the principles that will help keep the community healthy, whether or not they plan to access campus.

3) Self-Screening
Our community will be expected to participate in a symptom self-monitoring system. Each individual working, residing, or participating in activities on campus will be asked, starting this month, to use a self-reported, daily symptom screening app. Students should begin immediately using the #CampusClear app, which will ask a series of questions designed to educate the user on what symptoms to look for in their own health. Based on the user’s reported symptoms, the user will be directed to seek appropriate medical attention or visit a testing center for follow-up. Daily monitoring of symptoms is seen by public health officials as invaluable reinforcement of the vigilance required to early identify potential infection and prevent spread of the virus.
OUR APPROACH | FALL 2020

4) Treatment and Quarantine

The (CDC provides guidelines for isolation of those who are infected and for those who are exposed. Compliance with isolation and quarantine requirements will be a condition for participation in campus life this fall.
ACADEMIC COURSE DESIGN AND DELIVERY
At the heart of our model is the commitment our faculty have for delivering a rigorous education founded on strong student-faculty engagement. Trinity faculty are committed to providing innovative and engaging teaching designed to help students achieve transformational learning outcomes. Some courses will be taught in synchronous, real-time formats with live engagement, some courses will be taught in asynchronous formats, and many courses will use both formats in ways that fit the learning outcomes of the courses. In every case, care will be taken to ensure that all students can participate in the course in ways that promote student-faculty engagement and robust learning. The discretion for designing each course will be in the hands of those most able to make those decisions — our professors.

Our plan offers significant flexibility to accommodate uncertainty in how conditions will evolve, and it is designed to offer educational continuity regardless of changing circumstances. Our plan also acknowledges that COVID-19 impacts each person in a unique way, and this approach seeks to educate students in the midst of their particular circumstances.

We are very conscious of increased risks the coronavirus poses for people with preexisting conditions or advanced age. As such, faculty are engaging students in modalities that consider the health of the entire community while delivering a highly engaging experience for their students. We have learned that a significant proportion of our students will be unable to participate in in-person education due to travel restrictions, personal decisions regarding health, or family challenges related to COVID-19. Our model seeks to create flexibility for students to continue to receive an excellent education and progress successfully toward their degree, regardless of where they reside. We also understand that public and personal health conditions may change as the fall unfolds and, as such, it will be prudent to have flexibility built into course offerings so that possible disruptions to programs of study are minimized as we proceed through the semester.

Over the summer, we have launched our new learning management system: Brightspace. Brightspace, which replaces Moodle, provides a greatly enhanced learning experience with multiple tools to promote student engagement via video, audio, and chat features. In addition, Brightspace provides 24/7/365 chat, email, and phone support for students. Should a student ever have a challenge with an aspect of the technology at an hour in which they cannot access their professor, Brightspace support will be there to help upload a paper, teach students how to use a particular feature of the platform, or address other challenges they are having.

Flexibility will also play a major role in managing the density of campus. An important public health objective is to maintain reasonable social distancing on campus. Wherever possible, students and faculty will have the ability to adapt and adjust the schedule that suits their needs and aligns with the good health practices of the whole campus. Flexibility will be essential in creating access to our most popular spaces; local students will be able to access the library and other locations, which we expect to be open with appropriate distancing measures, capacity limits, and increased infection control measures.
RESIDENCE LIFE AT TRINITY

FALL 2020
Residence Life Plan
Residential students who opt to live on campus will be assigned to a single bedroom within a suite. Students in the same suite will share a bathroom. Preference for a specific suitemate may be indicated in the Revised Housing Application Form, which will be emailed to students on August 7. Mutual preferences will be honored when possible. In the event that requests for on campus housing exceed availability, the College will need to prioritize requests based on need.

Guidelines and Expectations for Residential Living
• Residential students are required to wear a mask properly and socially distance while on campus, except for in the following locations: in their own residence hall room, while eating on campus in a designated dining area, or while outdoors where social distancing is possible.
• Students who reside in a suite together will be considered a family unit and will be permitted to relax social distancing and mask wearing requirements.
• Residential students will not be permitted to have guests or visitors in their residence hall suite at any time. Outside visitors will not be permitted in the residence halls.
• Residence hall lounges will have limited access. As recommended by the CDC, some will be available with reduced capacities, and others will be closed.
• Students are expected to fully comply with residential living expectations. Students who do not abide by policies and do not take their own safety or the safety of others seriously are subject to immediate removal from on-campus housing.

Travel Quarantine Expectations for Residential Students
All students moving to Trinity from a state with high incidence of COVID-19 will be required to complete a 14-day travel quarantine within their suite upon arrival. Guidelines for travel quarantine are available from the Cook County Department of Public Health, and will be communicated to students. Students are not permitted to work or leave campus during the quarantine. Trinity will support students through this initial 14-day travel quarantine period by providing students delivery access to their meal plan and by coordinating support on campus.

Students will not be permitted to travel to and from a high incidence state while in residence throughout the semester. Should a student choose to ignore this expectation, they will be charged for quarantine services upon return. Residential students are required to report travel outside of the state, and follow most recent guidance upon return. This guidance may change as states are added to and removed from the travel quarantine list in Cook County, Illinois.

Dining and Food Service
Students will be asked to select a meal plan when they complete the Revised Housing & Commuter Intent Form. We have relaxed the meal plan requirements to provide students more choice, and the new options are available in the application. In person dining will be available in the dining hall, and meals will be provided “to go” from the dining hall.
Move-in and Residence Life Calendar
Residential students will be able to register for a specific move-in time and date between Friday, August 21 through Tuesday, August 25. There will be ample selection available on each day. Information about move-in registration will be sent directly to students after housing assignments have been confirmed on August 14. Students who previously requested an early arrival will be contacted by staff. Trinity is planning to continue offering housing through November 20, as conditions permit. As academic programs and personal circumstances require, certain students may need to stay after November 20, but most will leave as anticipated on November 20. This date may be moved to an earlier date if pandemic circumstances or local guidelines warrant a shift in approach.

Refunds
Recognizing that students may need to leave campus prior to the Thanksgiving holiday departure date, we are publishing an updated Fall 2020 refund schedule. The refund schedule is weighted to reflect upfront institutional costs related to housing students in Fall 2020.

Response to COVID-19 Symptoms
All Trinity students, faculty, and staff who are accessing the campus community, and especially residential students, are required to self-screen daily for symptoms. Trinity is utilizing the app #CampusClear for daily screening. Students should self-screen daily and enter their symptoms into the app. Students with a “green screen” are cleared to participate in campus life. Students with a “red screen” will be required to remain in their room until receiving direction from campus personnel. Depending on the circumstances, students may be asked to quarantine or be tested for COVID-19.

If a residential student tests positive for COVID-19 or is presumed to have COVID-19 by a medical professional, they will be required to either return home immediately or isolate in their assigned room for as long as required by CDC guidelines. All close contacts, including any suitemates, will be required to quarantine for at least 14 days, and can do so by returning home or remaining on campus. Limited quarantine space may be available, so students will likely be asked to isolate (the term for staying in your room if you have COVID-19) or quarantine (the term for staying in your room if you have been exposed to COVID-19) in their own room.

Testing for COVID-19
Trinity is prepared to test symptomatic individuals and asymptomatic individuals with a known COVID-19 exposure in coordination with Cook County Department of Public Health and local health care providers. Students who reside on campus or students who have spent time on campus may be required to submit to testing under these circumstances.

A student who believes they have been exposed to the virus or is experiencing symptoms should log their concerns on the #CampusClear app. The Campus Health Coordinator and/or staff will reach out to a student on the same day a concern is logged for further instruction.

Trinity will proactively engage with students throughout the semester to gauge their health and well-being and provide resources to support both their physical and mental health.
TRINITY TOGETHER IN COMMUNITY

ON AND OFF CAMPUS
Open Campus to Serve Students
We remain as committed as ever to student flourishing, regardless of where our students are doing their primary learning. Our goal is to give each student the experience of a staffed campus that is ready to welcome and support them this semester, both virtually and in person. To that end, campus offices will be open and able to support students. As allowed by health guidelines, staff will be working from campus and individual offices will communicate hours of operation and post scheduling preferences to best coordinate with students.

Chapel, Outcry, Campus Ministries
Trinity is committed to providing opportunities for spiritual growth through a variety of activities and types of engagement. Opportunities for participation in worship and spiritual formation will continue to be available in ways that adjust to health and safety guidelines.

Academic Support for Online Learning
A number of support systems are in place to help students flourish this semester. These include faculty office hours (most available in-person or online, at the faculty member’s discretion), the Writing Center, Library resources, the Trinity Care Team, and an opportunity to sign up for Student Success Coaching. More information about the Care Team and Success Coaching will be sent out at the start of the semester.

In addition, we will be launching the Trinity Together Remote Learning Support Center, with more information to be provided during Thrive and during the Campus Re-Orientation Sessions. And, as usual, students concerned about navigating a semester of learning online may always reach out to the Office of Learning Services, OLS@trnty.edu, at any time for support.

Campus Events
We will offer opportunities for students to connect with others. Some of these will be in person and on campus, others will be virtual. While many of our traditions will happen differently, students can look forward to some new opportunities to connect, serve, and participate in discussions around important topics. Residence Life staff will also be on campus and will be planning activities for their floors and buildings. Campus Clubs and Organizations will continue to function and will communicate plans about involvement once the semester begins.

We encourage residential and commuter students to bring along a camp chair or blanket for use while spending time outside. Students at Trinity also have convenient access to trails and other outdoor recreation. There is an access point to the Cal Sag Trail only a half mile from campus. This trail runs for 13 miles along the Cal Sag Channel and is a great trail for biking, running, and walking. Other local recreation options include Lake Katherine, a local nature preserve, and the Cook County Forest Preserves.
Counseling and Mental Health
Trinity Counseling Services will continue to support students by offering counseling services this semester. For Fall 2020, all counseling appointments will take place virtually. This arrangement will help ensure a safe environment for both students and staff and allow for the removal of facial coverings during sessions. Additionally, Counseling Services will offer virtual wellness programming for students.

Athletics
The NAIA and CCAC have postponed conference play and fall sport national championships to spring 2021. Likewise, Trinity Christian has also recently announced decision not to participate in fall sport competition.

While the NAIA and CCAC decisions apply specifically to fall sports (men’s and women’s soccer, men’s and women’s cross country, and women’s volleyball), Trinity Christian College has decided not to participate in allowable competition for student-athletes until further notice. This decision affects all fall competitions that would otherwise be allowable per NAIA guidelines.

Fitness Center
We intend to open the Fitness Center on August 26. Modified usage protocols with regard to equipment, capacity, restroom, and locker room access are currently being developed and will be provided to the Trinity community in advance of opening. Students who reside locally will be able to access this facility as protocols are developed.

Intramurals
We are exploring non-contact recreational sport options to offer on-campus. We also intend to provide an expanded offering of group fitness opportunities at times convenient for commuter students. The traditional array of intramural program offerings will not be offered at this time.

Mitchell and DeVos Gymnasiums
We intend to permit access to the Mitchell Gymnasium for individual use. Pick-up games or other competition will not be permitted. Access hours will continue to correspond with Fitness Center hours and usage will be monitored by Fitness Center staff. The DeVos Gymnasium will not be open for general student/campus use. Modified usage protocols with regard to equipment, capacity, restroom, and locker room access are being developed and will be provided to the Trinity community in advance of opening.
PUBLIC HEALTH AT TRINITY | FALL 2020

**Screen, Test & Protect**
Scale and capacity for essential public health practices — including self-screening, infection testing, and protecting through isolation and quarantine capabilities — are the key success factors to withstanding unexpected outbreaks with minimal disruption.

Trinity is implementing a robust Screen, Test & Protect program for all individuals who access campus based on recommendations for best practices from infectious disease experts, public health officials, and guidelines from the CDC.

All members of the Trinity community who will be working or participating in academic or other activities on campus will be expected to screen for symptoms of or exposure to COVID-19 on the #CampusClear app. Those who identify as having symptoms of COVID-19 will be referred for medical evaluation to determine if testing for COVID-19 is recommended. Students who are suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 will be isolated, and employees will be required to remain at home until they are determined to no longer be contagious based on CDC criteria. Rapid identification of individuals who may have experienced an exposure to COVID-19 is an integral part of reducing the transmission and risk of COVID-19 to our community.

Trinity is prepared to test symptomatic individuals and asymptomatic individuals with a known COVID-19 exposure in coordination with Cook County Department of Public Health and local health care providers. Students who reside on campus or students who have spent time on campus may be required to submit to testing under these circumstances. Additionally, students participating in athletic activity will have increased testing protocols as they return to activity together. Students in certain clinical rotations, student teaching, or internships may need to submit to testing at their placement site.

Individuals who are determined to have experienced a direct exposure to COVID-19 will be notified and expected to quarantine for 14 days after the last date of exposure to the individual with COVID-19. Compliance with our Screen, Test & Protect program will be an expectation of the entire community, and guidelines are in development concerning any exceptions to those requirements. Quarantine and isolation will be taken very seriously, and students, faculty, and staff will not be permitted to leave quarantine or isolation for work, school, or any other reasons. Trinity Christian College will continue to work closely with our local infectious disease experts and public health officials, and will also monitor for any new or updated guidance from national and state public health agencies, such as the CDC and the Illinois Department of Public Health, to update our approach and protocols as necessary.
Assumption of Risk
As we approach a new academic year at Trinity Christian College, the entire campus community must recognize that the current COVID-19 pandemic continues to create challenges and pose risks to the health and safety of our community. All College employees, as well as students, will also be asked to sign an acknowledgment and informed consent regarding their community responsibilities as a condition to returning to work, learn, or live on campus. The following acknowledgment and informed consent, which all students will be expected to sign, will be available on Student Portal on August 14.

The College has set forth its plans and expectations in the Trinity Together guidelines in this publication. The guidelines are subject to modification and update in accordance with CDC, Illinois, public health, and other guidance, and consistent with the evolving needs of the College. All College employees, as well as students, must comply with these guidelines and other reasonable directives from the College intended to protect the campus.

Circumstances like COVID-19 may require the College to change or alter its programs or services in the best interests of students, employees, and other members of the College community. These changes may appropriately include, but are not limited to: (1) change, postponement, or elimination of academic course offerings, program requirements, services, or access to facilities; (2) changes or adjustments to the method and timing of delivering course content or services, including conversion of some or all coursework to remote instruction; (3) assignment or reassignment of faculty and staff to particular coursework, advisory functions, or other work with students; (4) modification of semester schedules, examination schedules, clinical assignments, grading protocols, or other academic policies or practices; or (5) other adjustments to the academic or other policies, procedures, and standards of the College deemed to be in the best interests of students and the campus community. I also acknowledge that, regardless of the learning environment for Fall 2020, the tuition and fees that I agree to pay are in exchange for learning, academic credit, and certain non-academic services that will be provided whether in person, in a hybrid environment, or entirely remotely and any modification to such tuition and fees is at the discretion of the College.

I acknowledge that, though the College has set forth its plans and expectations in the Trinity Together publication, Trinity cannot completely remove the risk of contracting COVID-19 or experiencing COVID-19-related interventions such as required quarantine or testing that may be associated with accessing the Trinity campus. I willingly and freely assume this risk.