

## Executive Summary

Over the past few months, the impact of Covid-19 has upended the world. As of May 18, 2020, the virus has resulted in nearly 5 million cases globally<sup>1</sup> with more than 100,000 deaths<sup>2</sup> in the United States alone. For urban, coop-based colleges and universities such as Drexel University, Covid-19 has been especially difficult to navigate, testing our academic institution in unthinkable ways while creating very real and difficult challenges for the communities that we serve.

However, at the heart of Drexel University lies our innate ability to embrace challenges and create invaluable and innovative solutions collaboratively. In order to find the safest and most beneficial road back to campus for the fall, Drexel University assembled as of March a Crisis Management Team and deployed the Fall 2020 Covid-19 Task Force on April 24, 2020.

The Fall 2020 Covid-19 Task Force brought together an interdisciplinary team of professional staff and faculty from across the University to strategize possible scenarios, trouble-shoot potential outcomes, and work collaboratively to find the safest, most beneficial and inclusive path to bring the Drexel community back to campus in the fall.

To ensure Drexel's plans were both comprehensive and aligned with best practices, the Task Force drew upon the collective data, wisdom, and expertise of individuals within the sectors of public health, emergency preparedness, and epidemiology, as well as the collaboration with internal and external public health officials, government agencies, peer education institutions, hospitals and research organizations from across the country. Furthermore, over 1,300 responses from faculty, professional staff, students, parents and stakeholders were collected and reviewed to capture the breadth of Drexel's community of dynamic and diverse perspectives.

The recommendations made by the Fall 2020 Covid-19 Task Force were based upon the team's charge to:

- First, to protect the health and safety of Drexel's students, faculty and professional staff
- Second, to maintain Drexel's commitment to educate and serve our community
- And third, to preserve the University's academic, business, and administrative operations

Upon receiving its charge, the Fall 2020 Covid-19 Task Force considered three main scenarios for Drexel University regarding the fall term:

- Scenario 1: Drexel University's fall term would continue to operate solely online, similarly to the current spring/summer academic calendar, with the University campus remaining closed.
- Scenario 2: Drexel University's fall term would run as a hybrid program with varying elements online and in-person.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200518-covid-19-sitrep-119.pdf?sfvrsn=4bd9de25\\_4](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200518-covid-19-sitrep-119.pdf?sfvrsn=4bd9de25_4)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html>

- Scenario 3: Drexel University's fall term would begin and remain on-campus and in-person as is typical, with recommended social distancing protocols in place.

Based on months of research, data, and feedback from University stakeholders on the three potential scenarios, the comprehensive action plans of the Fall 2020 Covid-19 Task Force recommend a hybrid and phased approach for the fall 2020 term in order to enable and support research and experiential learning opportunities to move forward while adhering to the appropriate safety protocols to safeguard the Drexel community. The hybrid approach will be sustained by an increase in campus safety measures and a modified academic calendar to mitigate the potential risk of transmission of the virus. A phased approach for University operations, including academics and research on campus, will enable Drexel to establish thorough safety measures, provide increased support for faculty and professional staff, and continue planning for student accommodations.

Given the complex nature of the Task Force's multifaceted recommendations, Drexel's colleges, schools and administrative units will each establish an implementation group to plan and execute the recommendations laid out in the final report. The formation of these new working groups and their collective efforts will ensure a streamlined and thoughtful transition for the Drexel community over the course of the coming months.