All material in this document is subject to changes and updates.
HMI Covid Reopening Plan Summary

The HMI approach to running programs in the COVID-19 era revolves around a strategy in which students can live, interact, and engage in the HMI experience while minimizing—though not eliminating—risks of the virus reaching campus. There will be some times when this is not possible or, for necessity of operations, we will need to make compromises in how we practice our mitigation strategies. For example, we need to travel in vehicles to and from the airport, and expedition course areas, students will still need to go to doctors’ visits and the like, and our faculty and staff cannot operate within the student closed circuit. However, if the HMI community does have a case of COVID-19, we hope to mitigate the spread of it within the school and into the local community of Lake County. The following is a summary of our extensive plan, which has received support from the Lake County Department of Public Health and our physician advisor, who is also the health advisor to Lake County. It will change as state and local public health orders and advisories continue to change, but we believe we will be able to implement this plan under more restrictive scenarios.

Overall Transmission Mitigation Strategies

- Excellent Hygiene
- Health Checks and testing
- Masks/PPE
- Physical Distancing (early in programs and from those outside of the student body)

General Timeline for Mitigating Risk

- Before Program: Students and staff begin strict physical distancing and other risk mitigation measures 7-10 days before program launch, including a quarantine and a SARS-CoV-2 test.

- Days 1-3 (Expedition Prep)
  - Students are picked up from the airport in pods and driven to separate on and off-campus locations, where a SARS-CoV-2 test is conducted.
  - Students share spaces with only members of their 12-15 person expedition group. To accommodate separate spaces for five expedition groups, some will prepare for expedition on campus and some in off-campus locations in Leadville.
  - Expedition group members (adults and students) wear masks and physically distance as much as possible

- Days 3 - 16 (Expedition)
  - Expedition members wear masks when they cannot physically distance (except while sleeping)
  - Very limited interactions outside of expedition group
  - Groups are outdoors except while in vehicles, when they will wear HMI-issued N95 masks

- Day 16 and beyond
All students will take a SARS-CoV-2 test
Assuming all tests return negative, the student body will become a single community that will not physical distance from one another
Students wear masks at all times except while in their cabins or while eating; they will physically distance as much as possible from staff members. (We will strive to limit contacts closer than six feet between a student and a staff member to no more than 15 minutes in a single day)
We limit interactions between students and non-employees of HMI as much as possible

Isolation & Quarantine Protocols
The isolation and quarantine protocols dictate responses to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the event that an employee or student has been diagnosed, has positive symptoms, or has been contact traced as someone who has been in close contact to a person with a COVID-19 diagnosis. If an employee or student tests positive for COVID-19 isolation protocols will be followed. These protocols apply on campus or on expedition.

**CDC Quarantine Definition:** Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others.

**CDC Isolation Definition:** Isolation is used to separate people infected with the virus (those who are sick with COVID-19 and those with no symptoms) from people who are not infected.

Links to CDC Guidance: [Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines](#), [Steps to take if you are Sick](#)

Isolation and Quarantine of Employees of Students

- Students or other persons that test positive will be isolated in a location independent from the rest of campus for a period recommended by our physician advisor.
- Students or other persons exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms will be immediately separated from the community and taken to the doctor for testing. They will stay removed from the community until test results return. Individuals can return to the community/expedition after they have a negative test result and with the recommendation of our physician advisor.

Isolation and Quarantine of Employees

In the event that a staff believes they or another employee has COVID-19 symptoms or they live with someone who has symptoms or receives a positive test, the following protocol will be enacted:

- The employee will self-quarantine immediately. If in the field they will remove themselves at least 10 feet from the group, and wear PPE.
● The employee will contact their supervisor and a decision will be made if quarantine is necessary.
● The employee will make an appointment to be tested.
● In the field, the instructor will self-evac to be tested, and co-instructors will sanitize all group gear and high touch surfaces.
● Until test results are available and symptoms have subsided:
  ● The employee will self-quarantine at home.
  ● If in-field, the employee will be provided a vehicle to drive themselves out of field and will sanitize it afterwards.
  ● The employee may be able to work remotely depending on symptom severity.
  ● HMI will provide alternate housing for any employees that live with the symptomatic employee.
  ● The employee will remain in quarantine until cleared by the physician advisor.

Other Topics

Pre-Program Screening
● A follow-up email will be sent the day before travel to remind students not to travel if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or if it is likely that they have come in close contact with an individual that has COVID-19.

Testing Overview
Based on current recommendations of public health experts and physicians, we will follow the testing plan outlined below. These tests are in addition to the requirement to submit a pre-arrival test result to HMI. (The plans may change as public health recommendations do.)
● Test day one on arrival to the HMI campus. Tests conducted by the consulting HMI physicians’ staff. (See Isolation/Quarantine Protocols for what happens if tests are positive.)
● Test day 14-16 to catch any cases that could have developed in the previous two weeks. All students who receive negative results can join the closed circuit community.
● Additional testing as indicated throughout the semester and as recommended by our physician advisor and Lake County Public Health

Short Duration Leave for Students
The time that it takes to get students into a closed circuit will greatly limit their ability to leave the HMI community for a short time and then return.
● Any student that leaves the HMI community without agreeing to adequate transmission mitigations strategies may not be allowed back to HMI programming.
● Injured students will be required to remain in HMI care if they want to continue with programming.
● Suspensions or similar disciplinary actions will be conducted on campus or in Leadville.
Student Positive Participation Requirement

HMI is devoting significant time and energy to mitigating risks of COVID-19, because of this we have limited bandwidth working with students that have motivational/behavioral issues or who provide any push-back to transmission mitigation strategies.

- Any students with motivational/behavioral issues will be put on a strict behavior improvement contract and will be asked to leave the program if the terms of the contract are not met.

Hygiene, Campus Cleaning, and Disinfecting Guidelines (if applicable)

- HMI students and staff will endeavor to use the CDC recommendation for excellent hygiene.
- HMI will endeavor to clean and disinfect regularly commonly used surfaces and door handles. Also, see CDC Cleaning and Disinfection guidelines.

Contributors

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