

John Long

From: [REDACTED]@com
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 6:29 PM
To: Mayor; City Clerk Contact; Mary Jo Rossetti
Subject: Tufts University FOLLOW UP BELOW

Is there any kind of quarantine policy for returning students and staff attending Tufts University before local testing? Do students get tested before they return to Tufts from their home state also? Will our local Board of Health be involved in looking after Somervillians health concerns.? Since there are so many universities in this area should the state be more involved in this matter as thousands and thousands of students returning to Massachusetts certainly don't put us as the odds on favorite related to COVID-19. "You snooze you lose"

FOLLOW UP

Brava , just watched the August 17 Meeting on Health regarding COVID 19 preparations for Tufts students and staff . WOW! you go girl (Rossetti).You managed to kill two birds with one stone for your voters and small business. Grateful to all from the top down who serve "WE THE PEOPLE"

John Long

From: John Long
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 11:24 AM
To: John Long
Subject: FW: Why are individual covid tests the ONLY metric to identify risks?

From: PKF [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 6:22 AM
To: John Long
Subject: Fwd: Why are individual covid tests the ONLY metric to identify risks?

-----Original Message-----

From: Joe Beckmann [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Mon, Aug 17, 2020 5:37 pm
Subject: Why are individual covid tests the ONLY metric to identify risks?

In [Seattle](#), and [in Europe](#) and [other regions](#), they use wastewater tests to identify locations where viral rates and new infections change, and thereby focus their [prevention, treatment, and support services](#) where new cases have been found. These tests have more reliability, as well as more flexibility and far lower cost, than the tests Tufts are and will be using. Admittedly, in this region there are relatively few examples, but [the discussion of k-12](#) openings shows many of the same features. And the local wastewater testing firm, [BioBot](#), is still trying to identify individual cases from this geographic - rather than individual - metric. But the entire approach at Tufts - tying all measures to student and faculty and ignoring neighborhood impacts - completely ignores [their liability](#) should the epidemic follow this early reopening. And this approach is precisely what has caused a [wider range](#) of higher education bankruptcies. If the loss of 73 victims is worth a \$176,000,000 liability suit, nearly 3000 off-site students - and their neighbors, landlords, and merchants - could bankrupt even Tufts.

--
Joe Beckmann
[REDACTED]
Somerville, MA 02143
[REDACTED]

John Long

From: smackey@somervillechamber.org
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:33 PM
To: Matthew McLaughlin
Cc: City Clerk Contact; All City Council
Subject: Tufts Reopening
Attachments: 20tuftsreopeningletter.pdf

Hello President McLaughlin, Chairman Davis, et al

Attached please find the Chamber's letter regarding Tufts reopening.

Thanks,
Stephen



Stephen V. Mackey, President/CEO
Somerville Chamber of Commerce
2 Alpine Street, P.O. Box 440343
Somerville MA 02144
(617) 776-4100
<https://somervillechamber.org/>
smackey@somervillechamber.org



2 Alpine Street, P.O. Box 440343 Somerville, MA 02144

August 17, 2020

Matthew McLaughlin, President
Somerville City Council
93 Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02143

RE: Tufts Reopening

Dear President McLaughlin:

On behalf of the Somerville Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to thank you and the entire City Council for your actions serving Somerville during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Your wisdom and leadership are important for the physical and economic health of all of us likewise is the presence of Tufts University.

Somerville is the most densely populated city in New England. But Somerville is not an island. In fact, 80% of us who live here, live within a ½ mile of another municipality Boston, Cambridge, Arlington, Medford or Everett. There is nothing we can close here that does not have an alternative a ½ mile or so away. When places are reopening all around us, keeping places closed here can certainly cause local economic hardship without a public health upside.

Tufts University employs 5,000 people. Hundreds of employees live here. Beyond \$1.6M in annual property taxes and \$1.4M in PILOT payments, the University spends millions locally for services and supplies. The faculty, staff, and students add millions more for our small businesses, restaurants, and family-owned shops.

To be effective against this pandemic, we need to wear our masks, wash our hands, watch our distance; and do effective surveillance testing, contact tracing, quarantine protocols and targeted isolation procedures. That Tufts will be exemplary in all those categories and go above and beyond federal, state and local guidelines is no wonder. The University is one of only three in Greater Boston with a world class medical school. Tufts' special advisor is from the World Health Organization. Tufts' President is a distinguished scientist.

Tufts has been a great partner to Somerville throughout this pandemic. The University shut down early and has hosted police officers, firefighters, healthcare workers and COVID positive patients on campus through the summer. Tufts also hosted a food provider in a campus cafeteria that provided supplies to local food pantries. Recently, Tufts awarded Emergency Response Grants to 30 local nonprofit organizations.

We are in the Brainpower Triangle. MIT, Harvard, BU, Northeastern and others will be reopening with thousands of students many of whom will live here. Tufts will be our partner.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued leadership. We hope Tufts University reopens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Stephen V. Mackey".

Stephen V. Mackey, President/CEO
cc: cityclerk@somervillema.gov
citycouncil@somervillema.gov

John Long

From: Katjana Ballantyne <Katjana@Katjana.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 11:14 PM
To: John Long; Peter Forcellese
Subject: Fwd: Issues Surrounding Tufts Reopening
Attachments: Letter and Attachments 8-14.pdf

John/Peter,

Would you forward this letter to all Councilors for their reference? Thank you, Katjana

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mike Wiser [REDACTED]
Subject: Issues Surrounding Tufts Reopening
Date: August 14, 2020 at 1:49:51 PM EDT
To: "Mary.Jeka@tufts.edu" <Mary.Jeka@Tufts.edu>
Cc: Legal@tufts.edu

Dear Ms. Jeka:

I am writing you regarding Tufts University's COVID-19 reopening plans. I have attempted to reach out during a community forum and in multiple e-mails to the University's Government & Community Relations Department. I've received no substantive response to my concerns. I write you now, because I believe that the Tufts plans for arriving students may be so recklessly inadequate that it could create legal liability for the University. I am also concerned that University officials have made inaccurate, misleading and potentially dangerous statements to the media and in correspondence with local government officials. Lastly, I believe that the University may have made material misrepresentations to state regulators about its compliance with state guidelines.

My concern centers around the fact that Tufts University appears to lack a plan for Out-of-Region / Off-Campus students to fully comply with Governor Baker's Travel Order. As you will see from the attached documents, the Governor's Order requires travelers to quarantine in separate living quarters with individual bathroom facilities and to have an arrangement for food to be delivered in a safe manner. The vast majority of shared off-campus apartments would not provide the conditions that would allow students to comply with this order. Very few (if any) of these apartments would have the necessary bathrooms, and students could be sharing living facilities with others not in quarantine (either non-Tufts students or students from a different region).

I first communicated my concerns in advance of an August 4th community meeting. I then submitted a question at the community meeting on this matter. When my question was not answered, I wrote again to the office of Government & Community Relations. I received a response from Rocco DiRico: "I'll get the answers to these questions and get back to you as soon as I can." It has now been ten days, and I've received no response to my inquiry. I have seen no indication that Tufts has acted on my concerns or investigated this issue. In fact, public statements indicate that they have ignored this issue entirely.

I bring this matter to your attention because I want make sure that my concerns are memorialized and that it is clear that the University has received actual notice of a deficiency in your return to campus plan. If Tufts was not aware of the impossibility of its students to fully complying with the Travel Order in shared off-campus apartments, then it is now on notice and should take reasonable efforts to investigate and address this matter. COVID-19 is a dangerous and deadly virus, and Tufts owes a duty of care to its community to ensure that all students (on- or off-campus) can successfully comply with the state Travel Order.

I hope that these failures in the Tufts plan do not lead to a worst-case scenario where a student from a high-risk state infects a roommate during the quarantine period and that the disease spreads from there. But if this scenario occurs, Tufts cannot claim that it didn't know about this risk before it invited students to return to the area.

Despite the University's failure to respond to my questions on this matter, University officials have continued to make blanket and misleading statements to the media and local government officials. For example, an August 10th, 2020 Globe article quotes Tufts Spokesman Patrick Collins as saying the University "goes above and beyond all local, state and federal guidelines." This is not an accurate statement. The University knows or has reason to know based on my correspondence that the vast majority of students living in leased apartments off campus will not be in full compliance with the governor's Travel Order. After this same issue was raised by local officials, an August 12th letter to the Mayors of Somerville and Medford refers to these students as being "quarantined." While not as inaccurate as the statement to the Globe, it is misleading because it fails to reflect the fact that this quarantine of off-campus students will not fully comply with the Travel Order. These misleading and inaccurate statements obfuscate this issue and seem designed to induce students and community members to believe that the Tufts reopening plan is safer than it actually is.

Lastly, I am concerned that Tufts University has made material misrepresentations on this matter to state regulators. A document provided to the cities of Somerville and Medford and titled the "COVID-19 Higher Education Control Plan" includes a provision in which Tufts University asserts that its plan will ensure that students, staff and faculty arriving from high-risk states and foreign countries "are informed of...the latest Commonwealth travel order regarding travel restrictions, testing, and self-quarantine requirements."

Despite its assurances to the state, the Tufts website does not appear to provide detailed self-quarantine requirements. Students living in off-campus housing are not informed, for example, about the need for individual bathrooms or food delivery. While there is an embedded link to the Travel Order, students are not instructed to visit the site or told that there is important information on the page that Tufts does not provide on its own website. Almost as alarming is the fact that the information on the Tufts website continues to be extremely outdated. For example, at this moment the Tufts website states that "New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts are considered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as being "in-region." However, Rhode Island is not currently considered "in region" by the Commonwealth. It is considered to be a "high risk" state. The University is failing in its representation to provide the "latest" information to students. More importantly, this type of outdated information will lead students from high-risk states to behavior that puts the community at risk.

I regret that I felt it necessary to contact you. This should be a matter public health and community engagement rather than a matter of potential liability or legal compliance. However, others at the University have chosen to ignore these concerns. I hope that you will act on these issues. But if you do not, I feel that at least I have created a record of my concerns. This matter is now Tufts responsibility.

I am attaching a PDF that includes my correspondence with Tufts University, local and state officials, and related documents referenced in this letter. I appreciate your attention on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Wiser

--

Kind regards,
Katjana Ballantyne
Councilor Ward 7, Somerville
pronoun: she/hers

Committees:

**Chair: Open Space, Environment & Energy*

**Chair: Flood Forum*

**Vice Chair: Finance*

**Vice Chair: Equity, Gender, Families & Vulnerable Populations*

**Member: Traffic & Parking*

**Member: Public Utilities & Public Works*

Correspondence with Tufts University

From: Mike Wiser [REDACTED]
Subject: Quarantine Question
Date: August 4, 2020 at 1:09 PM
To: communityrelations@tufts.edu



Hello,

I have a question regarding the quarantine for out of region off campus housing. I may ask this question at the community meeting, but wanted to give you some time to either prepare then or perhaps you can answer my question now and I won't have to ask it then.

According to your website [Out-of-Region / Of Campus Students](#) "will be required to stay in their leased residence until they complete the entire testing series." However, the governor's mandatory quarantine is very specific about the types of locations that are required for new arrivals. These rules are publicly available at this website: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order#quarantine-requirement-and-testing-options->

The rules indicate that:

- **Travelers, along with their travel party, must separate from all other people for 14 days.**
- Travelers must not be in public or otherwise leave the identified quarters.
- **The living quarters must have a separate bathroom facility for each individual or family group.** Access to a sink with soap, water, and paper towels is necessary. Cleaning supplies (e.g. household cleaning wipes, bleach) must be available in the bathroom.
- Travelers must have a way to self-quarantine from other household members if a fever or other symptoms develop, in a separate room(s) with a door.
- **During the quarantine period, no one else should be in the living quarters other than those in the Travel Party,** including hotel staff or delivery persons, as applicable.
- **Food must be delivered to the living quarters.**
- Travelers must have a sufficient supply of face masks or face coverings to wear and must be compliant with the Massachusetts' masking order.
- Travelers are not to leave their living quarters except to receive urgent medical care.

I am very familiar with the housing stock in Somerville and Medford having lived in the area for a long time. Almost no off campus housing will provide adequate facilities to meet these requirements (i.e. "a separate bathroom facility for each individual or family group"). Additionally, there is a requirement that "Food must be delivered to the living quarters." I don't see how students could legally quarantine in off campus housing, unless they have attached bathrooms and food were delivered to their bedroom door.

I would appreciate understanding how Tufts will assist off campus students with complying with these requirements. Additionally, on your website I see no indication that you are communicating the details of these requirements to students.

Thanks,

Mike

From: Dirico, Rocco Rocco.Dirico@tufts.edu
Subject: Re: Quarantine Question
Date: August 4, 2020 at 2:03 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Community Relations communityrelations@tufts.edu

RD

Mike,

Thank you for contacting our office and signing up for tonight's meeting. We hope to answer many of these questions about quarantining tonight.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact my office at **617-627-3780**.

Talk to you soon,
Rocco

--

Rocco DiRico
Director
Government & Community Relations
Tufts University
14 Capen Street
Medford, MA 02155

617-627-3780
Rocco.dirico@tufts.edu

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram [@TuftsCommunity](#)

From: Mike Wiser [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 1:10 PM
To: Community Relations <communityrelations@tufts.edu>
Subject: Quarantine Question

Hello,

I have a question regarding the quarantine for out of region off campus housing. I may ask this question at the community meeting, but wanted to give you some time to either prepare then or perhaps you can answer my question now and I won't have to ask it then.

According to your website [Out-of-Region / Of Campus Students](#) "will be required to stay in their leased residence until they complete the entire testing series." However, the governor's mandatory quarantine is very specific about the types of locations that are required for new arrivals. These rules are publicly available at this website:
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order#quarantine-requirement-and-testing-options->



From: Mike Wiser [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Quarantine Question
Date: August 4, 2020 at 7:34 PM
To: Dirico, Rocco Rocco.Dirico@tufts.edu
Cc: Community Relations communityrelations@tufts.edu, Mary Jo Rossetti aldermanrossetti@gmail.com, Katjana Ballantyne katjana@katjana.org, Mayor Joseph Curtatone mayor@somervillema.gov, Erica Mace emace@somervillema.gov, anthony.monaco@tufts.edu
Bcc: Jess Szubart [REDACTED], Chris Orchard [REDACTED], Callie Taintor Wiser [REDACTED]

Mr. DiRico,

It is difficult to express how disappointed I am in the way that you handled tonight's town hall. I had a complicated and difficult question about how Tufts would comply with the Governor's quarantine order for off campus out of region students. I wrote you earlier this afternoon to tell you that this was an important question that I hoped you would answer. As I specifically mentioned in my e-mail, I wrote you in advance to give you time to prepare an informed answer. And yet you did not ask it publicly of your panel.

Because of the limitations of Zoom, I had to abbreviate that question (in my e-mail below) and asked one other. The questions I submitted via zoom were these:

- The governor's order lays out specific requirements for out of region isolation (such as each traveler having their own bathroom). Because housing stock in the area is generally shared apartments this type of isolation would not be possible. So how will Tufts ensure that out of region / off campus students comply with the governor's order?
- What is your plan for discipline for students who do not comply with your testing and reporting regime? An initial plan indicated they would be excluded from Tufts buildings. Doesn't this mean that non-compliant students will be forced into the neighboring community (i.e. to get groceries, etc.)?

You chose to ask neither of these questions to your panel. I'm not sure how you can truly have a dialogue with the community in which Tufts resides when everyone speaking in your "community meeting" was a Tufts employee and the only questions addressed were ones that you selected. (Strangely, they were often questions that simply rehashed ground covered in the initial presentation.)

I am not an advocate against Tufts bringing students back to campus. I simply want reassurance that your plan has been thought through and complies with state regulations. I love having Tufts students, faculty and staff as our neighbors. However, this "community meeting" has left me concerned. I am concerned that Tufts is not listening to community members like me. I am concerned that Tufts may be so confident in their own plans that they will be reluctant to change them quickly enough when questions are raised or conditions change. I am concerned that you took advantage of this crisis and Zoom technology to avoid difficult questions in a public forum. But most of all, I am concerned that Tufts does not have any plan to help students comply with the details of the governor's travel restrictions for off campus / out of region students.

The "community meeting" is now past us. I hope that city leaders in Medford and Somerville will not allow a future forum like this to be completely controlled by Tufts employees. However, more pressing than my displeasure at the format of the forum is receiving an actual answer to my original question. So I will repeat it:

[Governor Baker's Travel restriction](#) lays out details for how travelers to the Commonwealth from out of the region must quarantine. Those restrictions are quite specific and would seem to require such travelers to be in accommodation that provides them with their own bathroom, food delivery and complete isolation from anyone not in their "travel party." A traveler living shared off campus housing would need to have their own bathroom and someone to deliver food to them. Based on my knowledge of the housing stock of Somerville and Medford, almost no students living off campus will be able to comply with the Governor's requirements. Tonight extensive details were laid out for how you would handle on campus residents, but it appears from your website and the discussion tonight that the plan for out of region / off campus residents is to ignore the fact that it will be impossible for them to comply. How is Tufts going to address this issue?

Thank you for your response to this question.

-Mike

On Aug 4, 2020, at 2:03 PM, Dirico, Rocco <Rocco.Dirico@tufts.edu> wrote:

Mike,

Thank you for contacting our office and signing up for tonight's meeting. We hope to answer many of these questions about quarantining tonight.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact my office at **617-627-3780**.

From: Dirico, Rocco Rocco.Dirico@tufts.edu
Subject: Re: Quarantine Question
Date: August 4, 2020 at 8:41 PM
To: Mike Wiser [REDACTED]
Cc: Community Relations communityrelations@tufts.edu

RD

Mike,

Thank you for contacting my office again.

I'm sorry that we didn't get to your questions. We tried to answer as many questions as possible. I'll get the answers to these questions and get back to you as soon as I can.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact my office at **617-627-3780**.

Talk to you soon,
Rocco

--

Rocco DiRico
Director
Government & Community Relations
Tufts University
14 Capen Street
Medford, MA 02155

617-627-3780
Rocco.dirico@tufts.edu

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram [@TuftsCommunity](#)

From: Mike Wiser [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 7:34 PM
To: "Dirico, Rocco" <Rocco.Dirico@tufts.edu>
Cc: Community Relations <communityrelations@tufts.edu>, Mary Jo Rossetti <aldermanrossetti@gmail.com>, Katjana Ballantyne <katjana@katjana.org>, Joseph Curtatone <mayor@somervillema.gov>, Erica Mace <emace@somervillema.gov>, "Monaco, Anthony" <Anthony.Monaco@tufts.edu>
Subject: Re: Quarantine Question

Mr. DiRico,

It is difficult to express how disappointed I am in the way that you handled tonight's town hall. I had a complicated and difficult question about how Tufts would comply with the Governor's quarantine order for off campus out of region students. I wrote you earlier this afternoon to tell you that this was an important question that I hoped you would answer. As I specifically mentioned in my e-mail, I wrote you in advance to give you time to prepare an informed answer. And yet you did not ask it publicly of your panel.

Submission to
Somerville City Council

Statement of Mike Wiser on Tufts Reopening

I would like to convey my concerns regarding the plans that Tufts University has for reopening. I am specifically concerned about how Tufts is planning to ensure quarantine compliance for students arriving from out of the region and living in off campus housing.

Governor Baker has issued a COVID 19 Travel Order which requires all travelers to Massachusetts from specified states to quarantine upon arrival. (The order is available here: https://www.mass.gov/info_details/covid_19_travel_order) The order lays out very specific guidelines for how these travelers are to quarantine. The governor's order is quite specific about the conditions of this quarantine.

Some of the specific provisions of the governor's order include:

- Travelers, along with their travel party, must separate from all other people for 14 days.
- Travelers must not be in public or otherwise leave the identified quarters.
- The living quarters must have a separate bathroom facility for each individual or family group. Access to a sink with soap, water, and paper towels is necessary. Cleaning supplies (e.g. household cleaning wipes, bleach) must be available in the bathroom.
- During the quarantine period, no one else should be in the living quarters other than those in the Travel Party, including hotel staff or delivery persons, as applicable.
- Food must be delivered to the living quarters.

It seems that for students living in shared off campus housing compliance with the governor's order will be difficult, if not impossible. The vast majority of rental units in Somerville do not have separate bathroom facilities that would allow arriving travelers to isolate from one another. I have lived in multiple rental units in the area and visited *many* more and I have never seen one that would allow the type of isolation that is required by the Governor's order.

Yesterday, I attempted to raise this issue (and one other) at the Tufts University Community Town Hall. I also raised this issue in advance of the meeting with Tufts University's Director of Government and Community Relations Rocco Dirico. He has promised to respond, although I have not yet received a response.


Having reviewed Tufts updated Covid 19 website I found that there are extensive plans for students living on campus, but off campus students are largely left to fend for themselves. This leaves a number of important questions unanswered:

- Is Tufts gathering information from off campus students about the exact dates they are arriving in the area?
- Is Tufts gathering information about whether students' off campus accommodations include the facilities necessary for proper isolation (i.e. ascertaining whether individual bathrooms available in the off campus housing)?

- How will Tufts handle situations where students have leased off campus housing that does not provide a private bathroom?
- Will Tufts provide food delivery to off campus students during their quarantine?
- Will Tufts be checking on off campus students during the quarantine (either in person or over the phone) to ensure compliance with the quarantine?
- What disciplinary action will be taken against students who break their initial quarantine? Have students been informed of this?
- Will Tufts allow arriving out of region off campus students to quarantine in a shared apartment with in region students who are not maintaining a quarantine?
- Will anyone be allowed to enter or leave a shared off campus apartment before all residents have passed the testing protocol?

I believe that these are important questions that Tufts should address to ensure the safety of our community.

Letter to Mayor Curtatone

From: Mike Wiser [REDACTED] 
Subject: Tufts Quarantine Plans for Off Campus Students

Date: August 9, 2020 at 10:09 AM

To: Mayor Joseph Curtatone mayor@somervillema.gov

Cc: Mary Jo Rossetti aldermanrossetti@gmail.com, Katjana Ballantyne katjana@katjana.org, Erica Mace emace@somervillema.gov



Mayor Curtatone,

I am writing you because I have failed in my attempts to receive an adequate response from Tufts University over my concerns about their quarantine plans for students coming from high risk states and residing off campus. As you may remember, I first contacted you on the issue of Tufts' quarantine plans on July 14th. At that time, I was concerned because unlike similar universities Tufts did not have a plan for students to quarantine. I was relieved on July 24th when Governor Baker finally announced a mandatory quarantine for travelers from high risk states. However, I became concerned again on July 29th when Tufts released more detailed information for students that failed to provide a plan for off campus students to fully comply with Governor Baker's quarantine order. I have become increasingly concerned since August 4th as Tufts has repeatedly failed to answer my questions on this matter.

Governor Baker's quarantine order is publicly available on the state website www.mass.gov/MATraveler. This order has very specific requirements for how the quarantine is to be maintained. It reads in part (emphasis mine):

- Travelers, along with their travel party, must separate from all other people for 14 days.
- Travelers must not be in public or otherwise leave the identified quarters.
- The living quarters must have a separate bathroom facility for each individual or family group. Access to a sink with soap, water, and paper towels is necessary. Cleaning supplies (e.g. household cleaning wipes, bleach) must be available in the bathroom.
- Travelers must have a way to self-quarantine from other household members if a fever or other symptoms develop, in a separate room(s) with a door.
- During the quarantine period, no one else should be in the living quarters other than those in the Travel Party, including hotel staff or delivery persons, as applicable.
- Food must be delivered to the living quarters.

Tufts return to campus plan has similar requirements for students living in dorms (such as food delivery). However, **Tufts has failed to account for the fact that the vast majority (if not all) students living off campus will be in shared housing which is inadequate for proper quarantine** under the Governor's order. Anyone who has lived in Somerville or Medford would know that, for example, there are almost no shared apartments that provide separate bathrooms. Their plan also seems to make not account for how students are to feed themselves during the quarantine period. There seems to be no contingency planning for ensuring students who arrive early will properly quarantine. Most concerning is that under Tufts plan as I understand it **students living in off campus shared housing could be living with others** (students or non-students) **who are not subject to isolation** and will be out and about in the community.

Additionally, **Tufts' website fails to provide accurate and timely information on Massachusetts quarantine requirements** to off campus students. Not only does it not detail the quarantine requirements listed by the Commonwealth (above), but the list of high risk states is outdated and inaccurate. Rhode Island was added to the list of states this week, but continues to be listed as "in-region." This is a designation change that would have a dramatic affect on when students are expected to arrive. Has Tufts even alerted students from Rhode Island of the change in their state's status? In general the website refers to testing as part of a "return to campus" plan, but does not make clear how students are to conduct themselves before their initial test. Are they students supposed to be tested before they move into their apartment or after? Are they allowed to interact one-on-one with the landlord to receive the keys? No thought seems to have been given to how these students will properly isolate and students are left to their own devices to figure out all of these complicated and difficult issues.

Tufts plan for frequent surveillance testing is designed to contain an exponential spread of the virus on campus, but Somerville lacks widespread testing that could head off the spread of the virus if it were to "leak" out of a quarantine. A single case spread to the surrounding community by inadequate attention to quarantine could spread quietly and eventually infect dozens if not more in our community. It would be dangerous and potentially fatal mistake to underestimate the ability of this virus to spread. In Australia 300,000 people were forced into a lockdown after the virus escaped a hotel where travelers were being held under a strict quarantine. The outbreak was thought to be caused by a security guard who worked at the hotel sharing a cigarette lighter. (<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/02/world/australia/melbourne-coronavirus-outbreak.html>) If a breach of quarantine that small can lockdown a city, then how much more risky is Tufts' leaving it up to students to figure out on their own what "quarantine" means with almost no guidance from the university?

My repeated attempts to raise my concerns directly with Tufts have led to no response. In advance, of the Tufts community meeting I raised this issue in an e-mail to Rocco DiRico the Director of Government & Community Relations. I understood this was a complicated issue, so I wanted to give Tufts a chance to fully prepare an answer to my concerns. I was assured that they would be addressed during the meeting. Instead, my question was ignored as were two questions that I submitted directly during the community meeting. I e-mailed Mr. DiRico after the meeting reiterating my concerns (and CCed you on this e-mail). I was assured I would receive a response, but I have yet to receive one. I have also submitted a statement about my concerns to the special City Council meeting. I hope that my concerns are unfounded and that Tufts actually does have an internal plan to allow off campus students to safely isolate. However, **the failure of Tufts to respond** in a substantive manner to my inquiries **has lead me to fear that Tufts does not have a plan for how off campus students will quarantine in a safe manner** consistent with the Governor's order.

Given my failure to receive a response from Tufts University on this matter, I believe that **it is extremely urgent for the City** (and possibly you personally) **to take this issue directly to Tufts immediately.** Tufts did not involve the community in their planning until

August 4th, which led to a large gap in their return to campus plan. Now every day is of the essence and **Tufts must be pressed to deal with this issue and immediately come up with a plan that will keep the community safe and prevent students in quarantine from infecting roommates and the larger community during the quarantine period.** Based on license plates, it appears that multiple students from high risk states have already begun to arrive on our street. Are they fully complying with the Governor's travel order? If they received information on the quarantine from the Tufts travel website, this seems unlikely.

I am attaching to this e-mail my correspondence with Mr. DiRico and my statement to the Somerville City Council. Somerville has been a leader in responding to this virus and I hope you will continue to lead in insuring that Tufts' reopening do not set our community back.

-Mike Wiser



Statement of
Mike W...ED.pdf



Correspondenc
e With...ico.pdf

Correspondence with Governor Baker and Secretary Sudders

MIKE WISER

• Somerville, MA 02144 |

August 12, 2020

Dear Governor Baker and Secretary Sudders:

I am writing you regarding my concern about the apparent failure of Tufts University reopening plans to fully comply with the Governor's COVID 19 Travel Order.

As you know, the Travel Order lays out conditions for quarantine in great detail, including requirements that travel parties be separated, travelers have their own bathrooms, and that food be delivered. However, Tufts University's opening plan calls for off campus students to reside in shared accommodation during the quarantine period. Tufts University specifically allows up to twelve people to share a house or apartment without ensuring the residence has the necessary facilities to comply with the Travel Order.

As a resident of the area for almost two decades, I am aware that the housing stock in Somerville and Medford would not allow the vast majority of students to fully comply with the quarantine requirements in the Travel Order. Shared off campus housing would certainly not provide each student with access to their own bathroom. Additionally, Tufts' plan does not account for the fact that students in these shared accommodations would be quarantining with other residents who may not be subject to a quarantine.

I have tried repeatedly to contact Tufts University on this matter, but have received no response other than an unfulfilled promise they would get back to me. I have raised this specific matter with the Somerville City Council and Somerville Mayor Joe Curtatone. Mayor Curtatone and Medford Mayor Breanna Lungo Koeh also raised the issue in an August 10th letter to Tufts.

While the University has yet to respond to my inquiries, its public response was both dismissive and misleading. University officials stated to the press that their plan "goes above and beyond all local, state and federal guidelines." However, the University has been put on notice that this statement is not true. Tufts plans do not go beyond Massachusetts quarantine requirements. In fact, they fall far short of them.

Tufts has failed to provide a plan that will allow students residing off campus to fully comply with the Travel Order. Additionally, Tufts has failed to adequately inform students of the detailed requirements of the Governor's Travel Order. Not only does the Tufts website fail to detail the quarantine requirements, but it also includes outdated and incorrect information (such as listing Rhode Island as a low risk "in region" state).

Given the failure of Tufts University to respond to the concerns of residents or to work in good faith with local elected leaders, I believe it is urgently necessary for the state officials to intervene in this matter.

If there is an exception that allows travelers from high risk states to quarantine in shared accommodation with others who are not subject to quarantine and without food delivery or access to their own bathrooms, then the Commonwealth should make that clear to all residents. However, if these requirements apply to all travelers including students, then the state should require Tufts to pause their reopening plans until they can ensure that students can successfully comply.

I appreciate your assistance in this important matter. I am attaching a PDF file which includes this letter and previous correspondence and other related materials referenced in this letter. The attachments will provide more specific details about my concerns on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Wiser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Wiser" clearly distinguishable.

Mike Wiser

Somerville – Medford

Letter to Tufts



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR



Medford, Massachusetts

BREANNA LUNGO-KOEHN
MAYOR

Contact: Natasha Perez 617-504-7428; media@somervillema.gov
Jackie Piques 781-888-4534; jpiques@medford-ma.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 10, 2020

Joint Statement from Somerville Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and Medford Mayor Breanna Lungo-KoeHN on Tufts University's Reopening Plan

Today Mayors Joseph A. Curtatone of Somerville and Breanna Lungo-KoeHN of Medford sent the following letter to Tufts University President Anthony Monaco regarding the university's reopening plan:

On behalf of the cities of Somerville and Medford, we write to reiterate our serious concern about the University's Fall 2020 campus reopening plan, particularly in light of the recent uptrend in daily confirmed COVID-19 positive cases and transmission rates in Massachusetts and the Northeast in the last month.¹ As we write this letter, 320 new cases and 12 new deaths have been reported in the Commonwealth.² Additionally, given the lack of reliable testing available regionally, statewide, and nationally at a scale that would allow for an accurate assessment of prevalence and incidence, it is very likely that the true number of infections that remain undetected is far greater. While we acknowledge that, despite the University's participation in our communities' spring-time lock down and continued summer-time social distancing efforts, a complete suppression of viral transmission is impossible, we ask that you reconsider the reopening plan that was developed under a previously reported set of health data and circumstances and ask that you, at a minimum:

1. Thoroughly reassess the Fall 2020 reopening plan through a peer-review process;
2. Reduce student population size both on- and off-campus;

¹ <https://www.wbur.org/news/2020/08/06/massachusetts-coronavirus-cases-rising-again>

² <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-dashboard-august-8-2020/download>

3. Stagger the return of students. In particular, delay the return of in-region students both on and off campus while refining protocols and procedures, and enforcement measures, for students returning to the area in the first phase of your reopening plan;
4. Consider providing increased onsite faculty and staff testing comparable to student testing requirements;
5. Clarify off-campus enforcement protocols including any related follow-up, disciplinary action, health screening, and testing;
6. Reexamine and clarify student and faculty mobility protocols on and off-campus; and
7. Provide detailed testing process/protocols, contact tracing plans, daily data matrix, and de-identified enforcement/violation data to both Somerville and Medford.

We ask you to reconsider your reopening plan and provide greater clarity on specific protocols because of overwhelming evidence regarding transmission rates, asymptomatic infections, lethality, and the impacts of the virus in densely populated communities, such as Somerville and Medford. We believe we are at another critical juncture in this ongoing and evolving crisis, where decisions that can markedly impact the transmission of this virus must be taken. A recent New York Times survey³, prior to the start of a new academic year, indicated at least 6,600 cases were tied to about 270 colleges over the course of the pandemic. Despite months of planning for a safe in-person return to class, and corresponding drastic changes to campus life, the virus is spreading widely at universities. We are concerned that inviting students to return so quickly and without a more careful staggered approach, without proper time for assessment and necessary adjustments, will significantly increase the risk of transmission in our communities and catalyze a potentially unmanageable increase in infections as we enter the fall and winter seasons. Tufts students, staff, and faculty are an integral part of both of our communities and our ultimate goal is a safe resumption of the University's operation that balances all of our community members' needs.

The coronavirus pandemic has created unprecedented disruption for institutions of higher education and host communities alike. We deeply appreciate your significant efforts to keep students, employees, and the larger community safe. We also very much appreciate Tufts' exceptional partnership with our communities since the start of this pandemic. Early in the pandemic, the University provided Medford and Somerville use of its dormitories to house quarantined police and fire personnel, which provided safety and peace of mind as we continued to provide essential services. We also thank you for the transparency and collaboration you have committed to in developing your school's reopening plan and for hosting a community meeting to address the concerns of Somerville and Medford residents. Despite everyone's best intentions and efforts to keep the spread of this virus low, and because of the ever-evolving nature of this virus, we remain concerned that the plan in its current form does not fully account for the immediate, increased risk posed to Somerville and Medford residents by the return of thousands of Tufts students to our communities.

We hope that we can continue to use the avenues of communication and goodwill between your institution and our communities to reach an agreement that reflects our respective needs to keep students and residents safe.

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/07/28/us/covid-19-colleges-universities.html>



Globe article on
Tufts' response

Tufts stands firm on fall reopening after pushback from Somerville, Medford

By **Jeremy C. Fox** Globe Correspondent, Updated August 10, 2020, 8:10 p.m.



A Tufts University student walked up a stairway and into the Sophia Gordon Residence Hall located on the Tufts University campus in Medford. JOHN BOHN/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

Tufts University stood firm Monday on its plan to reopen for on-campus classes in the fall, insisting that its testing and quarantine protocols are sufficient to keep students safe from the coronavirus, as mayors of the two communities the school straddles asked it to reconsider.

Somerville Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and Medford Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn asked Tufts President Anthony Monaco in a letter to reassess in response to “the recent uptrend in daily confirmed COVID-19 positive cases and transmission rates in Massachusetts and the Northeast in the last month.”

“We ask you to reconsider your reopening plan and provide greater clarity on specific protocols

because of overwhelming evidence regarding transmission rates, asymptomatic infections, lethality, and the impacts of the virus in densely populated communities, such as Somerville and Medford,” Curtatone and Lungo-Koehn said in the letter.

But Tufts said it will stick to its plan, which includes [staggered arrival times](#) for students depending on whether they live within or outside of New England, coronavirus testing and quarantine for all students arriving on campus, and twice-weekly testing throughout the semester.

“Our comprehensive plan for re-opening, which is based on the work and guidance of medical and scientific experts, protects the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff and the residents of our host communities, and goes above and beyond all local, state and federal guidelines for reopening higher education,” Patrick Collins, a Tufts spokesman, said in a statement.

Any student who tests positive will be isolated and monitored inside “on-campus modular residential units,” whether they live off-campus or in dormitories, he said. Tests will be processed by The Broad Institute, which expects to return results within 24 hours, he said.

The university will also hand out face masks and conduct an awareness campaign to help make mask-wearing and social distancing the norm for campus interactions, he said.

“As we have since March, we look forward to continuing to work closely with local officials to discuss our reopening plans and to address any questions or concerns they may have,” Collins said. “We look forward to finding new ways to partner with our host communities as we continue to navigate through this pandemic.”

Jeremy C. Fox can be reached at jeremy.fox@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@jeremyfox](https://twitter.com/jeremyfox).

[Show comments](#)

Tufts response to Somerville and Medford



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Anthony P. Monaco, *President*

August 12, 2020

The Honorable Joseph A. Curtatone
Somerville City Hall
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

The Honorable Breanna Lungo-Koehn
Medford City Hall
85 George P. Hassett Drive
Medford, MA 02155

Dear Mayor Curtatone and Mayor Lungo-Koehn,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the reopening of our Medford/Somerville campus in the Fall of 2020. The health, safety and security of our neighbors, students, faculty and staff is our top priority. I understand your concerns and welcome the opportunity to review our reopening plan with both cities. The partnership between Medford, Somerville and Tufts has been strengthened by our collaboration in response to this pandemic, and I look forward to continuing to work together to achieve our mutual goals.

Attached please find our COVID-19 Higher Education Control Plan checklist that follows the Governor's Reopening Orders for Phase II and Phase III. Our complete plans can also be found on coronavirus.tufts.edu. In response to the requests put forth in your letter:

1. Tufts University agrees to have our team of health experts meet with the health directors of Medford and Somerville to thoroughly review our Fall 2020 reopening plan, answer their questions, and address any concerns that they may raise.
2. Tufts University will reduce our student population for the upcoming semester. All students will have the option of studying remotely or taking a gap year without penalty. On the Medford/Somerville campus, The Fletcher School will be 100% remote for the fall semester, the Graduate Schools of Arts, Sciences and Engineering will have a 20% reduction of graduate students, and our undergraduate population has more than 13% of our students remote only or taking a gap year this fall, and therefore not returning to campus.
3. Tufts University agrees to stagger the return of our undergraduate students. Out-of-region and in-region student arrivals will be staggered over a period of weeks. First to arrive will be out-of-region students who will have to have at least three negative COVID-19 tests before their quarantine ends above and beyond the state requirements. Once the out-of-region students have completed their quarantine, we'll examine our test results, with both cities, and evaluate the plan to on-board our in-region students.
4. We will provide testing for staff that frequently interact with students including dining workers, contractors and library employees that is comparable to student testing requirements. Our testing plan,

with its inclusion of faculty, staff and all students living on-campus and off-campus is as extensive and comprehensive as any university in the nation.

5. Tufts will provide all students returning to Medford/Somerville with a Fall 2020 Campus Guide for AS&E Students (https://coronavirus.tufts.edu/sites/default/files/2020-06/Fall_2020_Campus_Guide_ASE_Students.pdf) outlining our new protocols on testing, contact tracing, quarantining and expected behavior. The university is conducting an extensive education and social norms campaign to impress upon students the need to observe all protocols, including masking and social distancing whether on-campus or off-campus to ensure the safety of our neighbors. To reinforce this campaign, the university will supplement its existing staff with a team of student ambassadors who will walk throughout the campus and nearby neighborhoods to hand out masks and provide reminders of the importance of compliance. Infractions of policies will be considered individually, with enforcement along a continuum according to the seriousness of the infraction, including potential separation from the university for egregious infractions that put the public health at risk.
6. Tufts University will work with the transportation directors in Medford and Somerville to reexamine student mobility protocols off-campus, including the location of bus stops for the off-campus shuttle.
7. Tufts will provide detailed testing protocols, contact tracing plans and quarantine locations to the health directors in both cities. The university commits to sharing our test results with our neighbors, host communities and the Department of Public Health through a public dashboard on our website. The Tufts Department of Public Safety will immediately notify the Medford and Somerville police departments of any off-campus violations. The Department of Public Safety plans to meet with both police departments to develop protocols for joint response to off-campus incidents.

Our fall reopening plans were driven by data and modeling and built to be flexible given the uncertainties that we have experienced so far in this pandemic. We are watching the developments in Medford, Somerville and Boston. We also continue to track data from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, all US states and internationally. For nine out of the past ten days, the 7-day rolling average test positivity rate in Massachusetts has been under 2 percent, which is encouraging. Tufts University along with the vast majority of private colleges and universities is using the Broad Institute for testing. So far at Tufts, 482 returning students, faculty and staff have been tested and all have tested negative. Tufts University staff members will continue to be in constant communication with city officials in Medford and Somerville.

We value our partnership with Medford and Somerville. In that spirit, we provided community support to both communities by hosting police officers, firefighters, healthcare workers and COVID-19 positive patients on campus this past summer. Recently, Tufts University awarded 30 emergency response grants to nonprofit organizations in our host communities. As we look forward to the fall, we hope to find new ways to partner with both cities as we continue to navigate our way, together, through this pandemic.

Sincerely,



Anthony P. Monaco
President, Tufts University

Tufts

COVID-19 Higher Education Control Plan
(as provided to Somerville and Medford)



TEMPLATE (I/V)

COVID-19 Higher Education Control Plan

As Massachusetts Higher Education Institutions continue to bring staff, faculty, students, and other members of the public back to their campuses, completion of this plan will demonstrate alignment with the considerations of the Massachusetts Higher Education COVID-19 Working Group. The plan will also demonstrate a self-certification that institutions have adopted the COVID-19 workplace safety rules and requirements instituted under the Governor's Reopening Orders for Phase II and Phase III.

Control plans do not need to be submitted for approval, but it is recommended that they be posted on the institution's website and must be immediately available for review in the case of an inspection or outbreak. If a plan is identical across all or multiple campuses, only one plan need be completed. If campuses require different approaches due to the nature of activities, building types, or other reasons, a separate plan should be completed for that campus or campuses. Plans should be disseminated to all applicable campuses.

HIGHER ED INSTITUTION INFORMATION | please provide the following information

Institution name: **Tufts University**

Campus name(s)/description(s): **Medford/Somerville**

Plan applies to:

☒ Single Campus

☐ Multiple Campuses

Campus address(es): **419 Boston Ave, Medford, MA 02155**

Primary point(s) of contact for campus(es) (President or designee): **Rocco DiRico, Govt. Relations**
617-627-3780, rocco.dirico@tufts.edu

SOCIAL DISTANCING | check the applicable boxes (or indicate "N/A" if not applicable) to certify that you have:

- ☒ Adopted measures to provide that all persons, including faculty, staff and students, remain six feet apart to the greatest extent possible, both inside and outside campus buildings
- ☒ Established protocols to ensure that faculty, staff and students can practice adequate social distancing
- ☒ Posted signage for safe social distancing in all places where faculty, staff and students are likely to gather
- ☒ Required face coverings or masks for all faculty, staff and students (except where unsafe due to medical condition or disability) while inside and if social distancing of at least 6 feet cannot be reliably maintained while outdoors
- ☐ Implemented additional procedures. Please describe them here:

HYGIENE PROTOCOLS | check the applicable boxes (or indicate "N/A" if not applicable) to certify that you have:

- ☒ Provided hand washing capabilities throughout the campus
- ☒ Taken measures to encourage frequent hand washing or sanitizing by faculty, staff and students and provided adequate supplies to do so
- ☒ Provided for regular sanitization of high touch areas, such as desks, equipment, screens, doorknobs, and restrooms throughout the campus



As Massachusetts Higher Education Institutions continue to bring staff, faculty, students, and other members of the public back to their campuses, completion of this plan will demonstrate alignment with the considerations of the Massachusetts Higher Education COVID-19 Working Group. The plan will also demonstrate a self-certification that institutions have adopted the COVID-19 workplace safety rules and requirements instituted under the Governor's Reopening Orders for Phase II and Phase III.

Control plans do not need to be submitted for approval, but it is recommended that they be posted on the institution's website and must be immediately available for review in the case of an inspection or outbreak. If a plan is identical across all or multiple campuses, only one plan need be completed. If campuses require different approaches due to the nature of activities, building types, or other reasons, a separate plan should be completed for that campus or campuses. Plans should be disseminated to all applicable campuses.

HYGIENE PROTOCOLS | check the applicable boxes (or indicate "N/A" if not applicable) to certify that you have:

Implemented additional procedures. Please describe them here:

GENERAL OPERATIONS | check the applicable boxes (or indicate "N/A" if not applicable) to certify that you have:

- ☒ Provided training for faculty, staff and students regarding the importance of social distancing, face covering, hand washing, symptom monitoring, testing, isolation, quarantine, and all other detection and response protocols, and regularly share information through multiple channels to reinforce the message
- ☒ Encouraged faculty, staff and students who are feeling ill or displaying COVID19 like symptoms to stay home or in their residence hall
- ☒ Established a plan to accommodate the needs of students, staff and faculty who are at higher risk if they are exposed to COVID 19, or who care for household members who are at higher risk
- ☒ Ensured that no gatherings will occur on campus that exceed the limits in the latest Commonwealth advisory, except for the purposes of instruction, provided that six feet distancing can always be maintained
- ☒ Ensured that campus amenities and services will adhere to all sector specific safety protocols, available on the Commonwealth's Reopening Plan website, applicable to the amenity or service. Examples include:
 - ☒ Office spaces: Must follow latest office space guidance
 - ☒ Dining Services: Must follow the latest restaurant guidance
 - ☒ Athletic Centers, gyms and fitness centers: Must follow the latest fitness center and health club guidance
 - ☒ Campus shops and bookstores: Must follow the latest retail guidance
 - ☒ Performance venues: Must follow the latest performance venue guidance
 - ☒ Events: Must follow the latest indoor and outdoor events guidance
- ☐ Implemented additional procedures. Please describe them here:



TEMPLATE (III/V)

COVID-19 Higher Education Control Plan

As Massachusetts Higher Education Institutions continue to bring staff, faculty, students, and other members of the public back to their campuses, completion of this plan will demonstrate alignment with the considerations of the Massachusetts Higher Education COVID-19 Working Group. The plan will also demonstrate a self-certification that institutions have adopted the COVID-19 workplace safety rules and requirements instituted under the Governor's Reopening Orders for Phase II and Phase III.

Control plans do not need to be submitted for approval, but it is recommended that they be posted on the institution's website and must be immediately available for review in the case of an inspection or outbreak. If a plan is identical across all or multiple campuses, only one plan need be completed. If campuses require different approaches due to the nature of activities, building types, or other reasons, a separate plan should be completed for that campus or campuses. Plans should be disseminated to all applicable campuses.

CLEANING & DISINFECTING | check the applicable boxes (or indicate "N/A" if not applicable) to certify that you have:

- ☒ Established and maintained cleaning protocols specific to the campus
- ☒ Taken measures to ensure that when an individual on campus is diagnosed with COVID 19, cleaning and disinfecting is performed
- ☒ Prepared to disinfect all common and high touch surfaces at appropriate intervals
- ☐ Implemented additional procedures. Please describe them here:

COMMUNICATION & SUPPORT | check the applicable boxes (or indicate "N/A" if not applicable) to certify that you have:

- ☒ Established consistent communication to all students, staff, faculty, and the surrounding community regarding Phase III plans
- ☒ Installed signage and other visual indicators throughout all campus buildings and outdoor areas to improve awareness of and compliance with Phase III requirements
- ☒ Established a plan for when and how to adjust operations in response to an outbreak on campus or other public health concerns, including communicating the need to pause or discontinue in person programming and activities to all students, staff and faculty
- ☒ Established clear communication and escalation points with the Local Board of Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and other state and local agencies as needed
- ☒ Developed protocols for delivery of emotional and mental health services, including both individual and group counseling
- ☐ Implemented additional procedures. Please describe them here:



As Massachusetts Higher Education Institutions continue to bring staff, faculty, students, and other members of the public back to their campuses, completion of this plan will demonstrate alignment with the considerations of the Massachusetts Higher Education COVID-19 Working Group. The plan will also demonstrate a self-certification that institutions have adopted the COVID-19 workplace safety rules and requirements instituted under the Governor's Reopening Orders for Phase II and Phase III.

Control plans do not need to be submitted for approval, but it is recommended that they be posted on the institution's website and must be immediately available for review in the case of an inspection or outbreak. If a plan is identical across all or multiple campuses, only one plan need be completed. If campuses require different approaches due to the nature of activities, building types, or other reasons, a separate plan should be completed for that campus or campuses. Plans should be disseminated to all applicable campuses.

DETECTION & RESPONSE | check the applicable boxes (or indicate "N/A" if not applicable) to certify that you have:

- ☒ Established a comprehensive plan, in coordination with public health officials, for facilitating testing of symptomatic individuals and monitoring students, staff, and faculty for the presence of COVID 19, including robust testing protocols for: (1) incoming or returning students, especially those who will be living on campus; and (2) on going periodic testing strategies for students, staff and faculty throughout the school year, especially for individuals in frequent contact with residential students and other individuals who have pre existing medical risk factors. Such plans should be regularly updated to ensure compliance with current CDC and DPH requirements and guidelines and to reflect evolving testing technologies and methods
- ☒ Established a plan for ensuring that students, staff and faculty who arrive on campus from another country or a state not designated as a lower risk state by the Department of Public Health provide documentation of a negative COVID test result on a sample taken no more than 72 hours prior to their arrival, and are informed of campus policies and the latest Commonwealth travel order regarding travel restrictions, testing, and self quarantine requirements
- ☒ Designated residential facilities space for residential students to immediately quarantine if they arrive on campus from another country or a state not designated as a lower risk state by DPH and do not have documentation of a negative COVID test result on a sample taken no more than 72 hours prior to their arrival
- ☒ Developed a plan to ensure that results and full demographic data (name, date of birth, full address, gender, race, ethnicity, primary language, occupation and disability status) on students, staff and faculty tested by the institution for COVID 19 are reported electronically to the MA Department of Public Health as required. (If testing is conducted by a healthcare facility or laboratory, results will be reported electronically to DPH by the facility or laboratory.)
- ☒ Developed a plan for coordinating with students, staff and faculty who are diagnosed with COVID 19, or have been in close contact with someone who has, to ensure that they have adequate space and support to isolate or quarantine
- ☒ Developed a plan to work with DPH designated contact tracers following the identification of any case or close contact. (DPH designated contact tracers conduct contact tracing in Massachusetts, and include local Boards of Health, both in the municipality where the campus is based and the municipality where the case or close contacts reside, if different than where the campus is may be involved, as well as the Community Tracing Collaborative. Local Board of Health officials will decide whether to conduct contact tracing or assign to the Community Tracing Collaborative.)



As Massachusetts Higher Education Institutions continue to bring staff, faculty, students, and other members of the public back to their campuses, completion of this plan will demonstrate alignment with the considerations of the Massachusetts Higher Education COVID-19 Working Group. The plan will also demonstrate a self-certification that institutions have adopted the COVID-19 workplace safety rules and requirements instituted under the Governor's Reopening Orders for Phase II and Phase III.

Control plans do not need to be submitted for approval, but it is recommended that they be posted on the institution's website and must be immediately available for review in the case of an inspection or outbreak. If a plan is identical across all or multiple campuses, only one plan need be completed. If campuses require different approaches due to the nature of activities, building types, or other reasons, a separate plan should be completed for that campus or campuses. Plans should be disseminated to all applicable campuses.

DETECTION & RESPONSE | check the applicable boxes (or indicate "N/A" if not applicable) to certify that you have:

- ☒ Designated residential facilities space to immediately isolate students who reside on campus and test positive for COVID 19, and to separately quarantine students who have had close contact with them
- ☒ Established protocols to ensure that students in isolation or quarantine have appropriate support and services
- ☐ Implemented additional procedures. Please describe them here:

ADDITIONAL DETAILS |

Tufts Move In Update (accessed 08/14/2020)

- Indicating Rhode Island as “in-region”
- Failing to emphasize and list important details in the MA travel order

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Home / Message Undergraduate Student Life Office July 29 2020

Fall 2020 Move-In Update

July 29, 2020

Dear Students:

We are writing to share details about our move-in plans for the Fall semester.

We hoped to be in touch with you about these plans much sooner, but additional information and guidance from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has caused us to reexamine the best way to welcome students back to campus this Fall.

The new guidance will cause us to delay the arrival of some students and add quarantine time to the arrival of others, and will cause us to frontload additional testing resources to coincide with student arrivals. It will necessitate that some students participate in the first few days of classes remotely, instead of in-person. And, due to the new travel restrictions, it will require some students to move into their residence halls independently, without help from parents or loved ones.

These changes bring challenges – for all of us. But they also reflect our best efforts to prioritize the safe arrival of all students who wish to return to campus this Fall. While we have had to shift our plans to accommodate these new realities, one thing about our move-in plans remains unchanged – Tufts faculty and staff will be here to welcome students to campus and to help them settle into their new surroundings.

The information that follows includes detailed plans for students living on- and off-campus. Additional information can be found at the Tufts [move-in website](#)

(https://students.tufts.edu/student_affairs/residential_life/campus_housing/move_inmove_out_information)

. There is a great deal of information to cover, so we want to begin by offering you some key points.

Massachusetts has established health and safety requirements for anyone traveling to the Commonwealth, including mandatory quarantines for people arriving from certain regions.

Tufts has established additional requirements for returning to campus for the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and host communities.

Arrival dates will be staggered to allow students who must complete a quarantine period to do so before the arrival of students who are not required to quarantine. **Campus arrival dates will begin on August 16 and will end on September 13.**

We are developing a variety of new virtual programs and activities, such as reading groups, video watch parties, workout classes, games, and more, that will engage and safely connect students with one another during their quarantine periods to make the time pass as productively and comfortably as possible.

The first day of classes will remain **September 8**. This means that some students may need to attend class remotely during the first four days of class before they move into campus housing. All courses will be offered as originally planned. We have asked faculty teaching in-person or hybrid courses to accommodate students who need to participate in their courses remotely in the short term. Students who will need such accommodations are encouraged to contact their instructors the week before courses begin for additional information.

New Guidance

Effective July 1, Massachusetts enacted guidance that [requires everyone](#)

(https://www.mass.gov/news/baker_polito_administration_announces_updated_travel_guidelines_to_support_covid_19_response#:~:text=Effective%20Wednesday,%2C%20July%201%2C%20all,%2Dquarantine%20for%2014%2Ddays.&text=Travelers%20who%20are%20displaying%20symptoms,to%20not%20travel%20to%20Massachusetts.)

traveling to the Commonwealth from international locations or from states identified as having high rates of COVID-19 to self-quarantine for 14 days upon arrival in Massachusetts. On July 24, the Commonwealth [amended its guidance](https://www.mass.gov/info_details/covid_19_travel_order) (https://www.mass.gov/info_details/covid_19_travel_order) to allow individuals to reduce the quarantine period by testing negative for the virus within three days of arriving in Massachusetts. Under this new guidance, individuals coming to Massachusetts from locations that require a quarantine period must complete the [Massachusetts Travel Form](https://www.mass.gov/forms/massachusetts_travel_form) (https://www.mass.gov/forms/massachusetts_travel_form) before arriving in the state.

In an effort to further reduce the risk of exposure among our students, faculty, and staff, as well as our host communities, we are requiring all students to complete their arrival testing and all subsequent testing through Tufts. This means that we will not accept COVID-19 test results taken prior to arriving in Massachusetts or tests taken at locations outside of Tufts.

Revised Arrival Plans and Dates

Consistent with the new guidance, our arrival schedule will be organized by region. All students will be designated as either "in-region" or "out-of-region."

In-region: Students arriving from **New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts** are considered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as being "in-region." (Note: Hawaii is also considered "in-region" by Massachusetts, but for our purposes, students traveling from Hawaii will be included in the out-of-region group.)

Out-of-region: Anyone arriving from U.S. states other than those listed above (including Hawaii), or from any international location will be considered to be arriving from "out-of-region."

Below is a summary of the most significant aspects of the new plan for in-region and out-of-region students living on- and off-campus. Additional details are available on the Office of Residential Life and Learning's [move-in website](https://students.tufts.edu/student_affairs/residential_life/campus_housing/move_inmove_out_information) (https://students.tufts.edu/student_affairs/residential_life/campus_housing/move_inmove_out_information).

Move-In Dates

To accommodate these changes, the move-in process will **extend from August 16 to September 13** as follows:

Region	Housing Type	Move In Dates
In region	On Campus	Sept 8 Sept 12
In region	Off campus	Sept 1 Sept 8 (if permitted by lease)
Out of region	On campus	Aug 27 Aug 30
Out of region	Off campus	Aug 16 Aug 26 (if permitted by lease)

Arrival Protocols for Testing and Quarantine

Region	Housing Type	Testing	Quarantine
In region	On Campus	Upon arrival, must take one COVID 19 test.	Quarantine until they receive a negative test.

In region	Off campus	Upon arrival, must take one COVID 19 test.	Quarantine until they receive a negative test.
Out of region	On campus	Upon arrival at Tufts, must quarantine in their room until the student takes and receives three negative COVID 19 test results. The anticipated wait time for completing the <u>entire</u> testing series is 7 to 8 days.	Students will be required to stay in their assigned residence room until they complete the entire testing series. Meals will be delivered until students receive their negative test result. they may leave their room to get food and receive medical care during the rest of the quarantine
Out of region	Off campus	Upon arrival at Tufts, must quarantine in their off campus apartment until the student takes and receives three negative COVID 19 test results. The anticipated wait time for completing their <u>entire</u> testing series is 7 to 8 days.	Students will be required to stay in their leased residence until they complete the entire testing series.

*Any student who tests positive for COVID-19, will be isolated in a separate housing unit.

If you develop symptoms

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>)

before your scheduled arrival on campus, you should promptly be evaluated by a medical provider to arrange testing and inform us immediately if your test is positive, again by reaching out to the Health Service

(https://students.tufts.edu/health_and_wellness/health_service)

(617-627-3350) as stated above. We will work with you on a plan to come to campus after being cleared by your medical provider.

Staggered Arrivals for Off-campus Roommates Arriving from Different Regions

Roommates from different regions are asked to stagger their arrivals so that out-of-region roommates arrive first and have at least 7 days to complete the arrival protocols for testing and quarantine. This applies to both on campus and off campus housing.

Graduate Students

In the coming weeks, graduate students assigned to campus housing will receive more information about signing up for an arrival date.

Graduate students living off campus will be contacted separately to register for an arrival date so that they can receive their first COVID-19 test and begin the testing regimen. Information on how to sign up for an arrival test will be shared in the coming weeks.

Move-in Procedures

The Commonwealth's guidance also necessitates changes to Tufts' move-in procedures and will make it difficult for parents, family members, and loved ones to participate in the move-in process for students arriving from out-of-region.

Parents, family members, or friends who would be arriving in Massachusetts from out-of-region (regardless of where their student is arriving from) may accompany a student for move-in only if they have met Massachusetts' requirements by either completing a 14-day quarantine upon arrival or have proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of arrival. Parents, family members, or friends who would be arriving in Massachusetts from in-region (regardless of where their student is arriving from) do not have to be tested or quarantined.

All students, whether in- or out-of-region, will be required to stay in their rooms after they move in and receive the results of their first COVID-19 test at Tufts, without exception. This means that any persons helping with move-in or accompanying students must plan to depart campus as soon as their student has moved in and been tested.

Limit of 2 persons. Whichever region you are coming from, we ask that no more than two individuals come to campus to assist each student during move-in. This is to ensure social distancing and to lessen the number of people moving into a building at

any given time.

Please note that the state's "transitory travel" exception does not apply to out-of-region parents, guardians, or other people assisting a student coming to the Tufts campus. While the exception permits travelers to drive through Massachusetts or to connect to their airplane, bus or train, or to stop at a highway rest stop, this exception extends only so long as is reasonably required for the traveler to complete their transit, make any necessary airplane, bus, or train connection, or make use of travel services such as at a highway rest stop. It does not apply to college move-ins.

Because masks will be required while moving in (regardless of the outside temperature or the physical exertion required), students are advised to keep the moving process manageable for themselves by using options that reduce the amount of lifting done on move-in day:

Drive and Drop Option: The Office of Residential Life and Learning still plans to offer a drive and drop option for students who wish to drop items in their room before their official move-in date. More information on this opportunity can be found on our [website](https://students.tufts.edu/student_affairs/residential_life/campus_housing/move_inmove_out_information) (https://students.tufts.edu/student_affairs/residential_life/campus_housing/move_inmove_out_information)

Shipping Items to Campus: The Office of Residential Life and Learning has information on the [move-in page](https://students.tufts.edu/student_affairs/residential_life/campus_housing/move_inmove_out_information) (https://students.tufts.edu/student_affairs/residential_life/campus_housing/move_inmove_out_information) explaining the process of shipping items to campus in advance of arrival. Tufts Mail Services will deliver boxes and packages to your on-campus room, consistent with social distancing and other health guidelines and subject to delivery schedules and limitations.

Moving Assistance: Moving assistance will be provided by professional movers on the designated arrival days. Additional information will be available closer to move-in.

Final Thoughts

There are a number of things that all of us can do to keep ourselves and everyone else healthy, whether on campus or at home.

Regardless of the current rules or guidelines in your state, we are asking in the strongest possible terms for you to start now taking action to limit your risk of contracting SARS-CoV-2. Please:

wear a mask at all times outside your home,

practice physical distancing with friends by staying six feet apart,

avoid crowded areas such as beaches and bars,

and practice good [hand washing technique](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>)

Before returning to campus, we strongly encourage you to have a conversation with your parents or family members about how you will manage a quarantine or illness, including sharing medical information, decision-making and general expectations. You should also have a similar conversation with your roommate(s) now to discuss how you will manage a quarantine or illness and agree as a team that you will do your best to stay healthy prior to your arrival.

We recognize this will be a difficult time for our students, particularly those who must complete a quarantine period. We are developing a variety of new virtual programs and activities, such as reading groups, video watch parties, workout classes, games, and more, that will engage and safely connect students with one another during their quarantine periods to make the time pass as productively and comfortably as possible.

Since our founding in 1852, Tufts has empowered generations of students to extend knowledge, to lead the world forward, and to do so with compassion. The circumstances in which we find ourselves today have made these aspirations more relevant and important than ever. Thank you for choosing Tufts. We look forward to engaging with you in the coming academic year.

Sincerely,

James M. Glaser
Dean, School of Arts and Sciences

Jianmin Qu
Dean, School of Engineering

Nancy Bauer
Dean, School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University

Robert G. Cook
Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Karen Panetta
Dean, Graduate Education, School of Engineering

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Travel Order

(accessed 08/14/2020)

- Showing quarantine requirements
- Showing Rhode Island as “High Risk”

EMERGENCY ALERTS



Coronavirus Update

Stay informed about COVID-19: Latest on cases, guidance, regulations *Aug. 14th, 2020, 9:00 am*

[Read more](#)

Travel Order: Requirements for individuals entering Massachusetts *Aug. 1st, 2020, 12:00 am*

[Read more](#)

Reopening Massachusetts: Learn more about the phased approach *Aug. 7th, 2020, 12:00 pm*

[Read more](#)



Mass.gov

COVID-19 Travel Order

Effective August 1, 2020, all visitors and returning residents entering Massachusetts must follow new travel orders. The Commonwealth has made great progress to slow the spread of COVID 19 and gradually re open the economy, and all visitors have a responsibility to help us keep transmission levels as low as possible.

All visitors entering Massachusetts, including returning residents, who do not meet an exemption, are required to:

- Complete the [Massachusetts Travel Form \(/forms/massachusetts-travel-form\)](/forms/massachusetts-travel-form) prior to arrival, unless you are visiting from a lower risk state designated by the [Department of Public Health \(/orgs/departments-of-public-health\)](/orgs/departments-of-public-health).
- Quarantine for 14 days or produce a negative COVID 19 test result that has been administered up to 72 hours prior to your arrival in Massachusetts.

If your COVID 19 test result has not been received prior to arrival, visitors, and

residents must quarantine until they receive a negative test result.

Failure to comply may result in a **\$500 fine per day**.

Please find more information below, including the list of lower risk states, exemptions, business guidance and other details.

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Massachusetts Travel Form

All individuals entering Massachusetts after 12:01 a.m. on August 1, 2020 who are over the age of 18 or an unaccompanied minor must complete and submit the on line

[Massachusetts Travel Form](/forms/massachusetts-travel-form) (/forms/massachusetts-travel-form) unless the individual meets an exemption below:

- **Lower-risk State:** This includes individuals coming from a COVID 19 lower risk state within the United States, as detailed below.
- **Transitory travel:** This includes people who are passing through Massachusetts and

permits travelers to drive through the State or to connect to their airplane, bus or train, or to stop at a highway rest stop, but this exception extends only so long as is reasonably required for the traveler to complete their transit, make any necessary airplane, bus, or train connection, or make use of travel services such as at a highway rest stop.

- **Persons Commuting for Work or School:** People who regularly commute, at least weekly, outside of Massachusetts to a fixed place to attend school or work or any person who regularly commutes, at least weekly into Massachusetts to a fixed place to attend school or work; provided that in either case, this exception applies only to and from the person's residence and place of work or school. Workers or students who travel to any place that is not their home state for personal or leisure reasons cannot rely on this exemption.
- **Patients Seeking or Receiving Medical Treatment:** Patients who are traveling to Massachusetts to seek or receive specialized medical care from a physician located in the Commonwealth and persons accompanying and providing needed support to the patient.
- **Military Personnel:** Any person who is required to travel to Massachusetts at the order or directive of a Federal or State military authority.
- **Workers Providing Critical Infrastructure Services:** Workers who enter Massachusetts to perform critical infrastructure functions as specified in Version 3.1 of the listing published by the Federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency are exempt from quarantine while they are commuting to or from or while at work. For the first 14 days after arrival, when the worker is not at work or commuting to work they must quarantine. Additional information may be found here: <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce> (<https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>). Workers who travel to or from Massachusetts for personal or leisure reasons cannot rely on this exemption. ⁰

If you do not meet one of the exemptions above, you must complete and submit the online [Massachusetts Travel Form](/forms/massachusetts-travel-form) (</forms/massachusetts-travel-form>).

Failure to submit a completed [Massachusetts Travel Form](/forms/massachusetts-travel-form) (</forms/massachusetts-travel-form>), when required, or failure to comply with the quarantine requirement, if applicable, **may**

result in a **\$500 fine per day**. Additional information about both the [Massachusetts Travel Form \(/forms/massachusetts-travel-form\)](#) and the 14 day quarantine requirement, can be found in this [comprehensive guidance issued by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health \(/guidance/guidance-for-travelers-arriving-in-the-commonwealth-of-massachusetts\)](#).

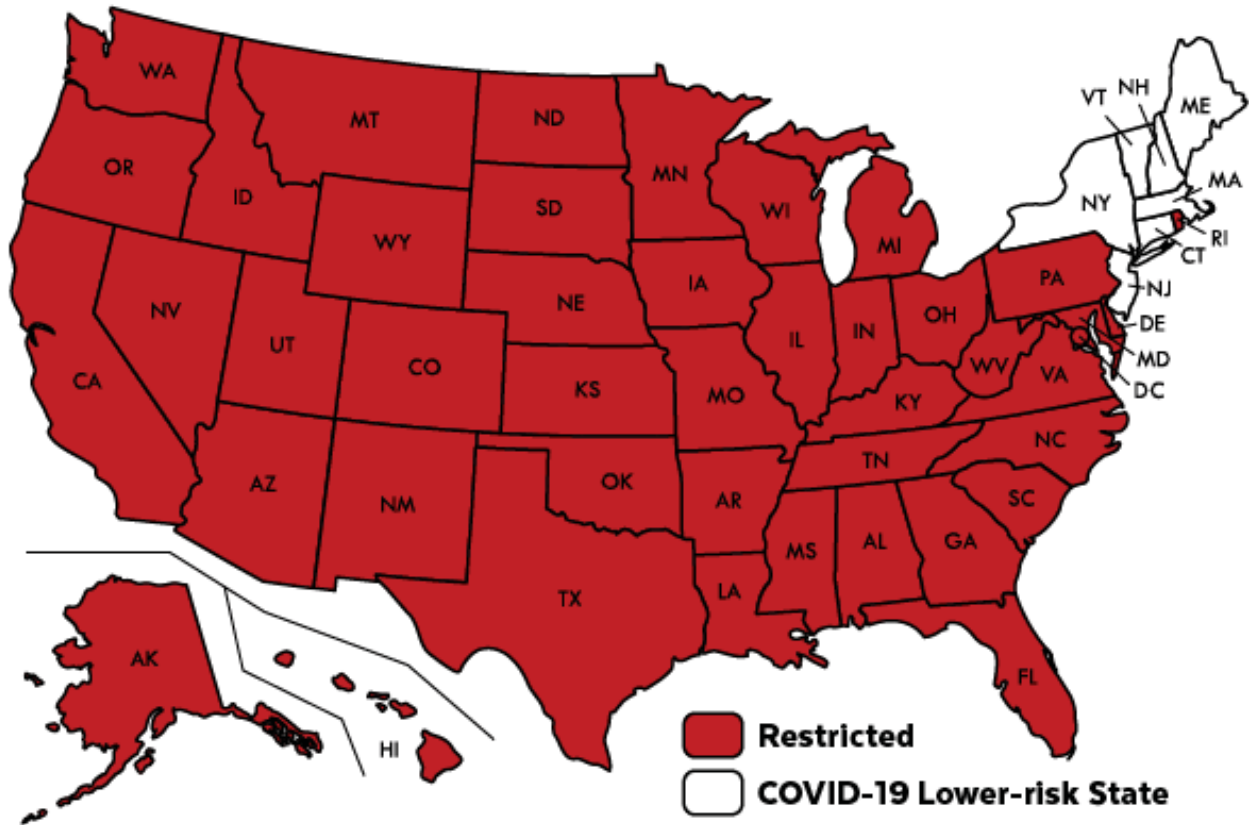
Thank you for helping us to continue to fight COVID 19.

Lower-risk States

Travelers from COVID 19 lower risk States are not required to fill out the [Massachusetts Travel Form \(/forms/massachusetts-travel-form\)](#) and do not need to quarantine. States are included on the list based on meeting two criteria: average daily cases per 100K below 6 AND positive test rate below 5%, both measured as a 7 day rolling average. Data is from [covidexitstrategy.org \(https://www.covidexitstrategy.org/\)](https://www.covidexitstrategy.org/) as of August 4, 2020.

The current list of COVID 19 lower risk states includes:

-
- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| • Connecticut | • New Jersey |
| • Maine | • New York |
| • New Hampshire | • Vermont |
-



Lower risk state list last updated: August 13, 2020

(removal of Hawaii as lower risk state is effective 12:01am on August 14, 2020)

Massachusetts residents are urged to limit any out of State travel only to States designated as COVID 19 lower risk States.

In determining whether you are required to complete the [Massachusetts Travel Form \(/forms/massachusetts-travel-form\)](#) and whether you may be required to comply with the 14 day quarantine requirement, you will be treated as “arriving from” a place other than a COVID 19 lower risk state if you were present in any State or jurisdiction not on the list of COVID 19 lower risk states for more than a transitory period of time in the last 14 days.

Anyone arriving from an international destination must fill out the [Massachusetts Travel Form \(/forms/massachusetts-travel-form\)](#) and must quarantine for 14 days or meet the 72 hour testing rule.

Quarantine Requirement and Testing Options

14-Day Quarantine Requirement

All individuals entering Massachusetts after 12:01 a.m. on August 1, 2020 must quarantine for 14 days from the date of arrival in Massachusetts unless the individual meets one of the criteria below:

- **Lower-risk State:** This includes individuals coming from a COVID 19 lower risk state within the United States, as detailed above.
- **72-hour Testing Rule:** The individual can produce, upon request, proof of a **negative test** result for COVID 19 from a test administered on a sample taken no longer than 72 hours before your arrival in Massachusetts.
- **Transitory travel:** This includes people who are passing through Massachusetts and permits travelers to drive through the State or to connect to their airplane, bus or train, or to stop at a highway rest stop, but this exception extends only so long as is reasonably required for the traveler to complete their transit, make any necessary airplane, bus, or train connection, or make use of travel services such as at a highway rest stop.
- **Persons Commuting for Work or School:** People who regularly commute, at least weekly, outside of Massachusetts to a fixed place to attend school or work or any person who regularly commutes, at least weekly into Massachusetts to a fixed place to attend school or work; provided that in either case, this exception applies only to and from the person's residence and place of work or school. Workers or students who travel to any place that is not their home state for personal or leisure reasons cannot rely on this exemption.
- **Patients Seeking or Receiving Medical Treatment:** Patients who are traveling to Massachusetts to seek or receive specialized medical care from a physician located in the Commonwealth and persons accompanying and providing needed support to the patient.
- **Military Personnel:** Any person who is required to travel to Massachusetts at the order or directive of a Federal or State military authority.
- **Workers Providing Critical Infrastructure Services:** Workers who enter Massachusetts to perform critical infrastructure functions as specified in Version 3.1 of the listing published

by the Federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency are exempt from quarantine while they are commuting to or from or while at work. For the first 14 days after arrival, when the worker is not at work or commuting to work they must quarantine.

Additional information may be found here: <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce> (<https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>).

Workers who travel to or from Massachusetts for personal or leisure reasons cannot rely on this exemption.

Travelers who are required to complete a 14 day quarantine on arriving in Massachusetts will be contacted to remind them of their continuing obligation to quarantine.

Individuals who do not comply with their obligation to quarantine are subject to a **\$500 fine per day**.

Testing as an Alternative to Quarantine

You do not need to quarantine for 14 days if you took a test for COVID 19 and have received a negative result. The specimen for the test must have been collected no longer than 72 hours before your arrival in Massachusetts, and the testing must be by a method approved by the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#) (</service-details/about-the-department-of-public-health>). Upon request, you must be able to demonstrate proof of the negative test result.

If you took a test prior to your arrival but have not received your negative result, you **MUST quarantine** until you receive the negative result. You may obtain a test at your own expense after your arrival in Massachusetts, but you **MUST quarantine** until you obtain a negative result. [Use the COVID-19 testing map to find a site near you](#) (</covid-19-testing>).

Information about approved molecular tests can be found in the [Department of Public Health Guidance](#) (</guidance/guidance-for-travelers-arriving-in-the-commonwealth-of-massachusetts>). A negative result from an antigen test must be confirmed by a negative result from an FDA EUA approved molecular (PCR) SARS CoV2 test, on a sample obtained 72 hours or less prior to arrival in Massachusetts. Serology tests will not be accepted.

Visitors are strongly urged to obtain a negative result before traveling to Massachusetts.

Testing for children, 10 years and younger, who are traveling with an adult from their household is not required.

Individuals who do not comply with the requirement to quarantine are **subject to a fine of \$500 per day**.

How to Quarantine

Travelers who do not fall within the one of the three exemption categories detailed above:

1. coming from a lower risk state,
2. meeting the 72 hour testing rule, or
3. meeting a limited circumstance specific exemption, must quarantine beginning immediately upon arrival in Massachusetts.

The quarantine must continue for a period of 14 days unless the traveler leaves the State sooner.

The requirements for quarantining are as follows:

- Travelers, along with their travel party, must separate from all other people for 14 days.
- Travelers must not be in public or otherwise leave the identified quarters.
- The living quarters must have a separate bathroom facility for each individual or family group. Access to a sink with soap, water, and paper towels is necessary. Cleaning supplies (e.g. household cleaning wipes, bleach) must be available in the bathroom.
- Travelers must have a way to self quarantine from other household members if a fever or other symptoms develop, in a separate room(s) with a door.
- During the quarantine period, no one else should be in the living quarters other than those in the Travel Party, including hotel staff or delivery persons, as applicable.
- Food must be delivered to the living quarters.

- Travelers must have a sufficient supply of [face masks or face coverings to wear](#) (</news/wear-a-mask-in-public>) and must be compliant with the Massachusetts' masking order <https://www.mass.gov/doc/may-1-2020-masks-and-face-coverings/download> (</doc/may-1-2020-masks-and-face-coverings/download>).
- Travelers are not to leave their living quarters except to receive urgent medical care.
- Travelers should [engage in proper hygiene](#) (</info-details/covid-19-prevention-and-treatment>) including washing hands frequently using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, an alcohol based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used.
- Travelers should remain aware of potential COVID like symptoms including: fever (temperature over 100.0 degrees); cough; difficulty breathing; shortness of breath; chills; muscle or body aches; runny nose or nasal congestion; new loss of taste or smell; headache; nausea; vomiting or diarrhea. **Travelers with any of these symptoms should immediately contact a healthcare provider.**
- If no one in the Travel Party develops symptoms, then the travel party may continue with their normal activities after 14 days.

These requirements are in addition to Massachusetts requirements for wearing a mask or other face covering in both indoor and outdoor settings, any time you cannot socially distance and remain 6 feet from other people.

What Happens if I Develop COVID-19 Symptoms While in Massachusetts?

The 72 hour test is a diagnostic test that is a point in time clinical measurement. If you develop symptoms, you may need to be tested again and may need medical attention.

Leaving Massachusetts Prior to Completion of Quarantine

A traveler may choose to leave Massachusetts before the completion of his or her 14 day quarantine.

Information for Employers

Employers are strongly discouraged from requiring or allowing business related travel to non lower risk states, as indicated in red on the map above. Employers that permit employer paid or reimbursed travel to non lower risk states should take measures to ensure employees comply with the [Travel Order \(/doc/july-24-2020-travel-order-pdf/download\)](/doc/july-24-2020-travel-order-pdf/download). Employers are also urged to strongly discourage their employees from taking leisure travel to non lower risk destinations.

International Travel

Consult with the [U.S. Department of State website \(https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html\)](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html) for COVID 19 information regarding international travel.

All International travelers arriving in Massachusetts must complete the [Massachusetts Travel Form \(/forms/massachusetts-travel-form\)](/forms/massachusetts-travel-form) and must quarantine for 14 days unless they can provide proof of a negative test result that meets the criteria stated above or they are covered by one of the other, limited exceptions.

Stop the Spread

We All Must Do Our Part to Stop the Spread (/info-details/stop-the-spread): Protect Yourself and Others

- Avoid public places, including while traveling, if possible
- Massachusetts law requires you to wear a mask if
 - You are within 6 feet of distance from other individuals
 - In a situation or setting where you are unable to maintain 6 feet of distance from others
 - In a public business or public or private transportation carrier or for hire vehicle

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially before you eat
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Cover your cough and sneezes with a tissue and discard it in a closed container
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects

Potential Other Traveler Scenarios

1. Does this apply to students arriving from other States or foreign countries to attend college or university or boarding school?

- **Yes.** The travel rule applies to all persons entering Massachusetts from any point of origin. A student who enters Massachusetts from any place not included on the list of COVID 19 lower risk States must quarantine for 14 days if the student cannot provide proof of a negative test result that meets the standards of the 72 hour test rule.

2. Does the rule apply to parents, guardians and family members who are dropping their students off for boarding school or college/university?

- **Yes.** If a parent/guardian/family member is entering Massachusetts only to drop off the student and then immediately leaves the campus and the state, then they would meet the exemption of transitory travel. If they are staying overnight, then they are subject to the requirements of the travel order.
- Parents, guardians, and family members who do not meet the transitory travel exemption and are coming into Massachusetts from any place other than a COVID 19 lower risk State are required to either receive a negative test within 72 hours of coming into Massachusetts or quarantine for 14 days.

3. Where can I report concerns I may have about non-compliance with the order?

- Individuals should contact the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health \(/service-details/about-the-department-of-public-health\)](#) or the [Local Board of](#)

[Health \(https://mhoa.com/municipal-links/\)](https://mhoa.com/municipal-links/).

4. If I develop symptoms but had a negative test what should I do?

- The 72 hour test is a diagnostic test that is a point in time clinical measurement. If you develop symptoms, you may need to be tested again and may need medical attention.

5. I received a call that I should go into quarantine because I was exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19. My test came back negative 3 days ago. Do I still need to quarantine?

- **Yes.** If you were exposed to someone known to be COVID 19 positive, then you are at increased risk of becoming positive and will need to quarantine for 14 days in your home state.

6. I had an antigen test which was negative, do I need to be tested again?

- **Yes,** a negative antigen test must be confirmed by a negative result from an FDA EUA approved molecular (PCR) SARS CoV2 test on a sample obtained 72 hours or less prior to arrival in Massachusetts.

7. I plan to arrive in Massachusetts on, or before, July 31, 2020, do I need to fill out the travel form?

- **No**

8. I am traveling with my children from a non-lower-risk State. I took a test and have my negative result. Do my kids need a test for COVID-19 as well?

- It depends on each child's age. If your child is 10 or younger, then the child does not need a test. If the child is 11 or older, then the child needs to be tested or will need to quarantine for 14 days, unless an exemption criteria applies.

9. I am a MA resident returning home after traveling to a state that is not considered lower risk. I have proof of a negative test result on a sample taken before my out-of-state travel, and because I was out of state only for 48 hours, I am returning within 72 hours of the time

the sample was taken. Can I use my negative test results taken before I left to satisfy the 72-hour testing rule and avoid quarantine?

- **No**, you must quarantine or obtain a new test upon return, unless you meet another exemption.

10. I am a MA resident and I provide Critical Infrastructure Services. I plan to go on vacation to Florida with my family. Do I need to quarantine when I return home from Florida?

- **Yes.** Workers who travel from Massachusetts for personal or leisure reasons cannot rely on the Critical Infrastructure Worker exemption upon return. You must either quarantine or satisfy the testing rule. Your status as a Critical Infrastructure Worker does not allow you to break quarantine even to do that specialized work following travel for personal or leisure reasons.
- Likewise, a Critical Infrastructure Worker who comes to Massachusetts for personal or leisure reasons cannot rely on the Critical Infrastructure Worker exemption upon arrival and must either quarantine or satisfy the testing rule.

11. I am dropping my child off at college in another state that is not considered lower risk. Do I need to quarantine when I come home?

- It depends. If a parent/guardian/family member is entering a non-lower-risk state only to drop off the student and then immediately leaves the campus and the state, then they would meet the exemption of transitory travel. If they are staying overnight, then they are subject to the quarantine requirement upon return or must meet the testing rule.

12. I am entering Massachusetts but do not need to fill out the travel form because I meet an exemption. Do I need written documentation demonstrating that I meet the exemption criteria?

- **No.**

13. I am visiting my relative in Massachusetts. I live in a non-lower-risk state. I plan to quarantine in my relative's home. Does my relative need to quarantine as well?

- **No.** You should stay in a separate room from your relative. However, your presence in your relative's home does not require your relative to quarantine.

14. I am traveling to MA from a non-lower-risk state and do not meet an exemption criteria. I previously had COVID-19, I isolated pursuant to CDC guidelines and was released from isolation, do I still need to quarantine or meet the testing rule?

- **Yes.** You must quarantine upon arrival or meet the testing rule.
- If you took a test within 72 hours of your arrival and it came back positive due to your previous infection, you can use the positive test result plus a note from your doctor documenting your previous diagnosis and recovery to satisfy the testing rule.

15. Can international travelers get tested in another country before arriving?

- **Yes,** provided that they take a molecular (PCR) SARS CoV2 test on a sample obtained 72 hours or less prior to arrival in Massachusetts that is authorized by their Government.

16. I am a MA resident and went on vacation to a non-lower-risk state. Can I get a test in that state 72 hours before I come home to avoid the quarantine requirement?

- Yes, provided the test meets the DPH specifications.

17. I am a MA resident and I am required to travel from MA to a non-lower-risk state at the direction of the Military. Do I need to fill out the form and quarantine when I come home?

- **No.** Massachusetts residents who go out of state for military work and then return back to Massachusetts meet the military exemption.

18. May travelers from places other than lower-risk states be exempt from the Travel Order requirements if traveling for the purpose of running errands like going to the grocery store or pharmacy?

- Travelers are exempt from the requirements to fill out the Travel Form and self quarantine or obtain a negative COVID 19 test result if their travel is limited to brief trips for purposes that the Commissioner has [designated](#)
[\(/guidance/guidance-for-travelers-arriving-in-the-commonwealth-of-massachusetts#commissioner-designated-e](#)

Critical Life Activities. This allowance is limited to short, same day trips across the border and back for the following purposes: grocery shopping, visits to pharmacies, attending appointments with licensed health care providers including medical, dental, or mental health,, visiting persons receiving treatment in hospitals or residing in congregate care settings, attendance at day care or children's camps, attending religious services and funerals or memorial services, or attending to the care needs of family members.

- During such trips, travelers are instructed to wear face coverings, maintain social distance, practice good hygiene, and adhere to all other COVID 19 rules and restrictions.

19. I am a resident of RI attending a wedding in MA. Is the wedding considered a

Commissioner's

Exemptio

n (</guidance/guidance-for-travelers-arriving-in-the-commonwealth-of-massachusetts#commissioner-designated-exc>
under "religious services?"

- The wedding service itself can be considered an exemption as a religious service. However, any reception or celebration which either precedes or follows the ceremony is not exempted and requires either quarantining or a 72 hour negative test result in order to attend.

20. Are parents, guardians, and children required to comply with the Travel Order if traveling for the purpose of managing shared custody of a child?

- Children who travel into and out of Massachusetts because of transfers of custody or visitation between parents or guardians are exempt from the requirements of the order. Parents and guardians may rely on the transitory travel exemption, provided they comply with its limitations.

21. Other states' travel restrictions include exemptions for trips that last less than 24 hours. Does Massachusetts have a similar exemption?

- No, there is no specific exemption for trips that last less than 24 hours. Such short trips may be covered by exemptions like the ones for transitory travel or commuting for work or school. The full list of exemptions is **[here \(</guidance/guidance-for-travelers-arriving-in-the-commonwealth-of-massachusetts>\)](/guidance/guidance-for-travelers-arriving-in-the-commonwealth-of-massachusetts)**. Travelers

arriving from places other than lower risk States must fill out the Travel Form and self quarantine or obtain a negative test result if they do not meet one of these exemptions.

22. I am looking to be exempt from the requirement to self-quarantine by obtaining a negative COVID-19 test, but I am unable to get tested in the state that I am traveling from. What can I do?

- A traveler who is required to quarantine may be released from the obligation to continue quarantining upon obtaining proof of a COVID 19 negative test, which was administered after the person's arrival in Massachusetts. Travelers are required to quarantine immediately upon arrival in Massachusetts but may temporarily break quarantine to receive testing. Travelers must arrange for the test at their own expense and then are required to immediately continue quarantining until receiving a negative test result or the 14 days is complete. [Guidance on how to obtain a test in Massachusetts can be found here \(/info-details/about-covid-19-testing\)](/info-details/about-covid-19-testing).

23. After completing the Travel Form, do I need to keep a copy of my submission on-hand?

- You should keep the documentation with you. If you obtained a negative COVID 19 test result to be exempt from the self quarantine requirement you should be prepared to produce those results upon request.

24. I am traveling to Massachusetts from Puerto Rico (or some other United States Territory). How does the Travel Order apply to me?

- For the purposes of the Travel Order the following U.S. jurisdictions are treated as States:
 - District of Columbia
 - Puerto Rico
 - USVI
 - Guam
 - Northern Mariana Islands
 - American Samoa
- None of these areas is currently classified as a lower risk State, so travelers arriving from

any of these places are required to fill out the Travel Form and self quarantine or be prepared to produce a negative COVID 19 test result if they do not fall within one of the enumerated exceptions.

23. My child attends day care or day camp in MA or RI. Does he or she need to test or quarantine each day?

- No. Children who travel into or out of Massachusetts to attend day care or day camps are not required to comply with the Travel Order, and a parent or guardian transporting the child may rely on the transitory travel exemption, provided they comply with its limitations.

24. I live in Rhode Island and have a child or other family member receiving specialized medical care in MA. Can I visit them without quarantining or receiving a negative COVID test result?

- Yes. See response question number 18 above, which explains the Commissioner's [limited exception](#) [n \(/guidance/guidance-for-travelers-arriving-in-the-commonwealth-of-massachusetts#commissioner-designated-for-critical-life-activities\)](#) for Critical Life Activities.

25. What are the [Commissioner's exception](#)

[s \(/guidance/guidance-for-travelers-arriving-in-the-commonwealth-of-massachusetts#commissioner-designated-exc](#) for Critical Life Activities?

- grocery shopping
- visits to pharmacies
- attending appointments with licensed health care providers, including medical, dental, or mental health
- visiting persons receiving treatment in hospitals or residing in congregate care facilities
- attendance at day care or children's camps
- attending religious services, and funerals or memorial services

- attending to the care needs of a family member

John Long

From: Ethan Donowitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2020 6:39 PM
To: City Clerk Contact
Subject: Tufts reopening plan testimony
Attachments: signature.asc

Dear City Councillors:

I am writing today to express my frustration and concern about Tufts's decision to reopen in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is exceedingly clear that the basis for this decision is purely monetary: surely, if Tufts were to hold strictly virtual classes, some freshmen would choose to defer their admission by a year and some upperclassmen would choose to take a gap year. Still, Tufts's plan to welcome students back to campus next month is arrogant, selfish, and hostile to the greater Somerville community.

As you are aware, Somerville has been doing an excellent job at keeping the COVID-19 case count low, largely thanks to the returning home of many, if not most, Tufts students in March. If Tufts's reopening plan is allowed to go forth, students from all over the country and the world will travel to Somerville. Some of those students will be traveling from COVID-19 hotspots (e.g. a large portion of the Tufts student body is from Florida). There is no doubt in my mind that, within a matter of weeks, an outbreak will occur at Tufts given the number of students occupying close quarters in dormitories. Such an outbreak will inevitably spread to the entire Somerville community, most severely impacting those most vulnerable in our community.

It is clear, based on Tufts's lack of presence at Wednesday's city council meeting, that Tufts is simply not concerned about the Somerville community and is acting entirely out of self-interest. I urge you to take decisive action that prevents Tufts from inviting students back to campus next month. Every fatality inevitably endured as a result of Tufts's reopening is **entirely avoidable**.

Thank you,
Ethan Donowitz
Ward 2

John Long

From: Anna Leslie [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 8, 2020 7:05 PM
To: All City Council; John Long; City Clerk Contact
Subject: Resident Testimony re: Tufts Reopening Plans
Attachments: Resident Testimony re_ Tufts Reopening Plans.pdf

Please find attached testimony for the August 5 hearing.

Thank you,
Anna Leslie

--

~Change happens at the speed of trust~

August 5, 2020

Somerville City Council Public Hearing

Resident Testimony re: Tufts Reopening Plans

Good evening and thank you to the Council for the opportunity to testify. My name is Anna Leslie, I am a public health professional and Somerville home-owner. I have significant concerns regarding Tufts plans to resume on campus operations this fall, both the content of the plans and the manner in which Tufts has engaged their host communities in preparing these plans. The very fact that Tufts is not in attendance tonight speaks volumes. It is essential that Somerville city leadership be at any decision-making table, which they clearly have not.

I attended Tufts community meeting on August 4, which provided less than an hour for public engagement and response to questions. Dozens of resident questions went unanswered with no indication as to why the meeting ended. Below are specific questions regarding the content of the plans. I am repeating these questions here, as Tufts has yet to answer them:

1. Tufts' leadership consistently refer to requirements that begin when a student arrives. What does "arrival" mean? Arrival onto campus? Into the state? Into the city? What of students that already/always live here and/or will live off-campus? All of these are different outcomes that result in different outcomes.
2. Tufts' leadership refer to a students' daily symptom tracker app to ensure students are not entering spaces if they are Covid positive. Who confirms this before entering a building or classroom? Professors before students enter the classroom? Dining staff before students enter the dining hall? Where does the onus lie and how might that affect those that must enforce?
3. Students living on campus will be required to quarantine when they "arrive" until after 3 consecutively negative test results. What about students living off campus? I appreciate that Tufts is not able to 'control' student behaviors, but Tufts is able to determine whether students are here at all.
4. Tufts' leadership stated that Tufts is operating under phase 3. Given that Somerville is staying in phase 2, why is Tufts in phase 3? Has Tufts consulted at all with city leaders on phases and how to reopen in concert with the city's phases? If not, why not?
5. If each of the following becomes ill from Covid19 due to work on Tufts campus and needs to miss a significant amount of work time, are their medical bills covered? Their workload, coursework? Is their payroll covered and will their job be waiting for them when they recover? If not, why not?
 1. Tenured professor
 2. Assistant professor

3. Adjunct professor
 4. TA
 5. RA
 6. Contract worker
6. Has Tufts modeled the impact on Somerville and Medford should an outbreak begin at Tufts? If not, why not?
 7. On Tufts FAQ page, in response to the question, 'How will Dining Services keep its employees safe?' Tufts provides the following response: "Conscious of the impact that new procedures will have on Dining staff, later this summer, Tufts will publish guidelines for protecting the safety of Dining Services staff during these extraordinary times. The university cares deeply about its team and works to facilitate everyone's safety." This is woefully inadequate as to be insulting. With less than two weeks before students begin returning, there is no indication that these guidelines have been published. How specifically is Tufts caring deeply about its team's health and financial supports?

I have the additional following questions, posed to the council in the hopes that Tufts would testify at this hearing:

1. If staff become sick and require quarantine, what facilities and services are established to meet their needs? Will faculty and staff remain employed if their recovery extends to months?
2. Reopening an institution during two health crises is an issue of racial justice. As one example, SEIU32BJ reports that Tufts has laid off the majority of its contract janitorial workers. What is Tufts doing to ensure the health and safety of its *entire* community, not just its paying students? Has Tufts furloughed staff and what is the institution doing to ensure that former and existing staff have access to testing and care? Is Tufts working with the boards of health where their employees live?
3. Somerville's BIPOC residents have been disproportionately impacted by the virus. With long overdue discussion of the need to invest in our communities to ensure a just recovery and address structural racism, is Tufts willing to make the financial commitment we have always asked them for and pay their PILOT? Tufts University has a \$2 billion dollar endowment. If Tufts contributed just 25% of what they would owe the City of Somerville if they paid property taxes, that would be 0.08% of their total endowment. Tufts needs to engage in direct discussions with community members to design the investments that will best serve residents hardest hit.

Tufts University is part of a social ecosystem; their actions impact the health, livelihoods, and outcomes of surrounding residents, the staff that work on their campus, the family members of

those staff, their students, and the spaces that they occupy. I believe that both the plans and their approach indicate that Tufts is not adequately emotionally or financially invested in that ecosystem's survival or recovery. There has never been a more significant moment in history to be a good neighbor, to wield financial and positional privilege in support of the people and communities most deeply impacted by the dual public health crises we are facing. This also means centering those people most impacted. Tufts students, educators, contracted workers and neighbors must be members of any committee creating reopening plans that impact their health and wellbeing outcomes.

Somerville City Council should use any leverage points available to compel Tufts to engage city government in this process. Issuance of any building permits must be withheld if this basic expectation is not met.

I look forward to partnering with the council on this effort to ensure that our collective community remains safe.

Thank you,

Anna Leslie, MPH

██████████ Somerville

From: Colleen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 2:15 PM
To: City Clerk Contact; Mayor; All City Council
Subject: Fwd: Questions ahead is community meeting reopening plans

Mayor Curtatone,

First I am thankful for the City Council for having a meeting last night regarding Tufts plans to move students back in. And I am also in support of the reasons we remain in phase 2.

(I have sending emails from my phone so please excuse typos)

I sent the below email to tufts Community relations after my morning walk this morning. How am I (or anyone in our community) to Identify a Tufts student from a contractor?

I am in full support of checking the status of permits for anything related to Tufts. I also feel that the city should not allow any permits going forward for any type of work on or for Tufts campus.

Were permits pulled for the rows of mods currently under construction at the tennis courts? The activity on tufts campus is increasing and I find it hard to believe that permit wouldn't have to be pulled. If a permit was pulled what was the reason the permit was requested? For years we have Been asking tufts to build more on campus dorms and then out of the blue they have \$6 million to dump into a two year temp pet project? Also now that I think of it...tennis is probably a low risk sport for transmission. Why didn't they do this on a parking lot!

And then I find out that the 2 test a weeks the students will be given will be administered by themselves? I have nothing more to say on this joke.

What I don't understand is I look out my window at An elementary school that will be studentless come September. Yet two houses up is a Tufts owned house in

which students will be living in to attend school in person come September. I cannot be talked into an logic for this.

Also our seniors/elders have gone on with out programs since March. No bingos, no lunch gatherings, etc. I fully understand and support this. But we are allowing students to live off campus and play beer pong on their front porch? Our lonely elders can watch from their windows the college social gatherings that will be happen off campus for entertainment I guess. This is a slap in the face to our senior community. Throwing this out their... Can the city do a party line or something for seniors so they can hear good news over the phone. Maybe a game a trivia game? mt Vernon has a nice tent outside. Can a limit number of seniors go for lunch and maybe have a singer before the cold weather comes?

And the city only opened up permits for yoga etc the first of August? I will be able to go to my first yoga class outside next week. I was inform the process was “ Jumping through hoops “. We have only two to three more months at best before the weather changes or Covid spikes again.

What I find ridiculous from Tufts University is that their excuse of why the tufts students will be returning after Thanksgiving break is because The feedback they got from their students was that it was “too stressful”. And Academic time of year in November and December is not conducive because of finals. Give me a break.... It is called planning!

So basically....The residence of Somerville have done all that has been ask of us to keep the numbers down so that tufts can return in September.

I believe the numbers will start to rise in our city. And all the good progressive/ proactive action you have taken Mr Mayor will no longer matter. Where is our reward?

I am no wanting a respond. I know you are doing all that you can. I am just expressing my Disappointment With Tufts University’s decision and lack of community involvement.

If you have any power to mitigate Tufts student return plan (especially off campus living) please do so.

Regards
Colleen Flaherty

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From: Colleen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 1:39:28 PM
To: Dirico, Rocco <Rocco.Dirico@tufts.edu>
Cc: Community Relations <communityrelations@tufts.edu>
Subject: Re: Questions ahead is community meeting reopening plans

Thank you Rocco.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 6, 2020, at 11:44 AM, Dirico, Rocco <Rocco.Dirico@tufts.edu> wrote:

Thanks Colleen.

I just wanted to clarify, so I can report this to the right person. It sounds like they were contractors. I'll reach out to Operations about this.

Talk to you soon,
Rocco

From: Colleen [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 11:41 AM
To: "Dirico, Rocco" <Rocco.Dirico@tufts.edu>
Cc: Community Relations <communityrelations@tufts.edu>
Subject: Re: Questions ahead is community meeting reopening plans

Hi , I don't know if they were tufts students or Pro Av contractor. All but the supervisor were wearing neon yellow T-shirts'. I would assume Tufts can figure out if they are tufts students who are working for Pro av. The huddled group I mentioned was behind Barnum Hall in the parking lot by the 3 Pro AV parked vans. The supervisor had in a black shirt. This was about 830am this morning.

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From: Dirico, Rocco <Rocco.Dirico@tufts.edu>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 11:16:54 AM
To: Colleen [REDACTED]
Cc: Community Relations <communityrelations@tufts.edu>
Subject: Re: Questions ahead is community meeting reopening plans

Colleen,

Thank you for reaching out to me again. Was the crew from Pro AV Systems contractors or Tufts students? Where did you see them on campus?

I'll contact our Dean of Student Affairs office and see when they can begin the ambassador program.

Talk to you soon,
Rocco

From: Colleen [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 9:26 AM
To: "Dirico, Rocco" <Rocco.Dirico@tufts.edu>
Cc: Community Relations <communityrelations@tufts.edu>
Subject: Re: Questions ahead is community meeting reopening plans

Hi Tufts and all,

I am sorry to become this Neighbor but to me this is just a tip of the iceberg as your students begin to move into the area.

On my walk this morning there was a crew from Pro AV systems of about 10 all huddled together. Practically shoulder to shoulder for what appeared to be some type of team meeting. Only 2 of the workers had masks on.

There has been increased foot traffic on your campus because of all the prep work which is understandable. But could you begin your Ambassador walk around campus now?

Like your students that will be moving on campus and off campus....your workers of today (contractors) will be visiting local stores for their breaks.

Please begin today with your ambassador walks today or inform your workers while on campus (Especially in a team huddle) to wear masks!!

Regards
Colleen Flaherty

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From: Dirico, Rocco <Rocco.Dirico@tufts.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 4:49:46 PM
To: Colleen [REDACTED]
Cc: Community Relations <communityrelations@tufts.edu>
Subject: Re: Questions ahead is community meeting reopening plans

Colleen,

Thank you for contacting my office and submitting these questions for our community meeting.

1. I'll ask our team to address the question of dorm capacity
2. Yes, our off campus students will be included in our surveillance testing protocol. If an off campus student tests positive, they will be moved to the modular residential units on campus to quarantine.

3. All students and faculty will get tested. If they refuse, they cannot come on campus.
4. If there is a social gathering off campus of 15 or more students, please contact the Tufts University Police Department at [617-627-3030](tel:617-627-3030). They are available 24/7 and have the ability to respond on or off campus if it involves our students.

Should you have any additional questions or require more information, please contact my office at **617-627-3780** and/or communityrelations@tufts.edu .

Talk to you soon,
Rocco

--

Rocco DiRico
Director
Government & Community Relations
Tufts University
14 Capen Street
Medford, MA 02155

617-627-3780
Rocco.dirico@tufts.edu

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram [@TuftsCommunity](#)

From: Colleen [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, July 30, 2020 at 3:44 PM
To: "Dirico, Rocco" <Rocco.Dirico@tufts.edu>
Subject: Questions ahead is community meeting reopening plans

Here are a few questions that I would like answered to start. And I would like the answers in a presentation.

- 1 a listing of all the dorms and the Max capacity of each dorm. And the capacity you will have at each upon reopening in sept.
2. Off campus living. Will these students be included in the ongoing testing? If off campus test positive are they moved to the trailers or is the trailers only for current on campus students?
- 3 what if students or factuality members don't show up or refuse to get tested? What happens?
- 4 in March when the on campus living had moved out there was a porch/lawn gathering in which at least 15 students were playing beer pong at 2pm in the afternoon for all to see. I Will be honestly that I said to myself " they cannot leave fast enough" as they had no concern of the pandemic. I understand and accept this is college life but how is this type of gathering going to be cracked down? We cannot rely on the somerville or Medford Police. I would expect your college to enforce on or office campus living. I feel that we should be given a list of off campus addresses and a number to call if there are any large gatherings More than what the city allows.

I am one of the long time residence that like what tufts offers to the community. I had supported the time women's soccer was thinking of coming to Tufts. I never understood why neighbors complained about Tufts really. But in this....If your plan is to be at more than 50% of dorm living or in person classes from office campus living I rather your students take classes from their homes if they are not going to respect the work somerville has done since March to not spread covid. I have an elderly mother who hasn't been able to go to

any events since March but yet you are going to bring students in to have “college life”. Please let us get our life back to some normal before you begin your normal college life.

Colleen Flaherty

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John Long

From: James Bossi [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 10:46 AM
To: Mayor; All City Council; City Clerk Contact
Cc: Somerville West; West Directors
Subject: City Meeting 5/5 Regarding Tufts

To All,

Thank you to the City Council for donating so much time to the important issue of Tuft's reopening.

There were so many good questions brought up, many of which called out flaws in the plan. There were also questions that were asked the previous evening on Tufts Webinar that were not answered or had vague responses.

I feel what needs to be done now is for the Mayor to move immediately and demand assurances beyond what have been proposed. What has been proposed sounds like an unenforceable plan with a lot of holes in it. Self testing and self quarantine, especially off campus, is not realistic.

Bottom line: bringing back so many young people, into our densely populated city, creates a real chance for catastrophe.

Sincerely,

Jim Bossi

Sent from my iPad

John Long

From: Yael Langer [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 2:42 PM
To: City Clerk Contact
Subject: Concerns about Tufts Reopening - comments for tonight's public hearing.

To whom it may concern,

I live at [REDACTED], not far away from Tufts. I am primarily a pedestrian, which means that I do most of my grocery shopping etc. right in Davis Square. I am very concerned about the fact that the university plans to bring almost 6,000 students to campus from all around the country and the world, at a time when numbers in MA are already on the rise.

Last spring, despite the campus shutting down, many students stayed in Somerville in off campus housing. These students could be seen gathering in large groups around Somerville and hosting graduation and goodbye parties at their houses off campus in May. I have no faith that these same students will come back to campus and take the necessary precautions to keep themselves and our community safe.

I am particularly concerned about two parts of the plan that Tufts mentioned at their meeting yesterday: first, that tests will be self-administered and second, that while students will be asked to stay in groups of <10, there won't be any real consequences unless those groups reach >40 people. To me, this sounds like an admission by the university that they know that the students won't follow social distancing guidelines as well as a refusal to do anything about it.

I understand that Tufts is concerned about their profits and longevity. However, it would be a real shame for an outbreak to start in the neighborhood, and/or for Somerville residents to get sick and die, for the sake of Tufts making a profit this semester. As numbers in MA continue to rise and Somerville itself has held off on entering phase 3 of the reopening plan, we know, even if Tufts doesn't want to admit it, that there is no way for schools to operate safely. We know that Tufts is intentionally and willfully putting Somerville residents at risk.

If they insist on moving forward with this plan, I would like to do what both the University and city can do to mitigate impacts. Can the city bring back a free testing site in West Somerville for those of us who are close to the university and can't drive to assembly row? Will Tufts pay for testing for residents who live near a student who has tested positive? Will Tufts provide any kind of PPE for students or residents?

Thank you for your time,
Yael

From: Paula Woolley [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 1:09 PM
To: City Clerk Contact
Subject: Comments on Tufts' reopening plan

Hi,

I listened to the Tufts community meeting last night and unfortunately won't be free for the city's scheduled hearing, so here are my comments.

It sounds as if Tufts has a robust testing program in place, but their off-campus plan is not nearly strong enough. It isn't taking into consideration that students could move back into off-campus housing earlier this summer and party, walk around without masks or socially distancing BEFORE they report to campus. Also, even with the "threat" of being tested frequently, I'm afraid the magical thinking of young people that it can't happen to them won't prevent them from risky behavior off campus. Already this weekend I saw a group of 6 young college-age women walk by my porch without masks on and all in a cluster and heard parties that sounded like they could have more than 10 people, and from the clarity of their voices, it sounded as if they weren't wearing masks. As one person pointed out, though, it's hard to know if these are Tufts students.

My ideas:

- 1) Can Tufts police drive past houses where they know off-campus students live on weekend nights, to check whether there are parties going on?
- 2) Tufts must emphasize to students over and over again that wearing masks and socially distancing not only protects them, but most importantly protects other people. Even if they don't think they can get sick, they have to act as if they might have the virus and need to protect others from it, especially members of the community, faculty, and staff. This is true not only in classes and on campus, but when walking on the sidewalk, in Davis Sq, and at grocery stores. I hope they're emphasizing to students that Massachusetts and the cities where they're living have strict laws for safety during the pandemic, and it's not just an on-campus rule.
- 3) I hope they're emphasizing to students that the university could be shut down again if they don't comply.
- 4) Finally, I think the city itself could do more in terms of enforcement. Does the city have a way to deliver flyers to new residents outlining the pandemic rules/laws? (In general, it would be helpful to have a way to reach out to new residents that doesn't imagine they'll proactively look at the website; and to include information like the fact that dogs need to be cleaned up after, there's a noise ordinance, etc.)

Thank you,
Paula Woolley
[REDACTED]

John Long

From: Lindsey Patterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 12:27 PM
To: City Clerk Contact
Subject: public hearing on Tufts reopening plan

Hello,

I'd like to submit a comment/testimony for tonight's public hearing on Tufts reopening plan. I agree with all issues raised by Attachment-14109 to tonight's agenda: the letter from 19 residents.

Further, I'd like to add to issue #4: By bringing students physically back to campus, Tufts is generating revenue from room, board, and other fees that would not be generated from an all on-line model. This experiment will generate negative externalities on the Somerville community that disproportionately affect minority residents. How does Tufts plan to financially compensate the Somerville (and Medford) communities for these negative externalities (increased community cases and transmission) generated by its on-campus model? Through their on-campus model, Tufts will capture all financial benefits but not all of the costs. Financial compensation (for example, a percentage of room/board and on-campus fees) to the surrounding communities is the bare minimum that Tufts could do. A stronger request would ask Tufts to make surrounding communities whole.

Regards,
Lindsey

Lindsey J. Patterson
[REDACTED] Somerville MA 02144