SUNY Binghamton

Minimizing Density in Hallways &

Classrooms Notes scratchpad

1. Brainstorming ideas to minimize density and maximize social distancing in hallways and transit areas between classes:
    a. Reduce student travel to home and then back to campus
        i. Stop in person classes at Thanksgiving; last week of classes and exams happen online (avoid peak transmission times)
    b. Address the concern that students are waiting outside of classes:
        i. Increase time between classes to 20 minutes. Ask students not to arrive at class until 5-10 minutes before class so that they aren't waiting right outside the room.
            1. Hire students/separate workforce to wipe down classes in between classes?
            2. Self service station – disinfectant wipes
            3. Instructor to wipe down teaching station; pass out wipes to students to aid with wiping down
                a. Video instructions for instructors about how to manage classrooms and classes – wipes, face masks,
            4. But – does this increase the number of students in the hall at a given time?
        ii. Consider creating waiting spaces around rooms that are in use. Perhaps use unused classrooms nearby for this purpose.
    c. Reduce student movement and/or number of students in the hall at a given time.
        i. Stagger start/end times of classes
            1. Stagger by cohort in some way so reducing cross-pollination
            2. This will take significant effort to implement, and may result in conflicts for students. Would need to factor this in to implementation.
        ii. Keep students on 1 campus and/or 1 zone within a campus
        iii. Keep a main group of students in a classroom during the day, and the instructors come and go to change classes.
            1. Still have to consider movement during the break between classes
        iv. Divide schedule into 7 Week 1 and 7 Week 2 so students are taking and transitioning between 2-3 classes at a time instead of 5 all at one time.
        v. Reduce the number of times a week that classes meet (For example, classes meet 3 hours on one day a week instead of 1 hour on 3 days so students are going to and from class once a week instead of 3 times a week.)
        vi. Schedule classes throughout the day and week instead of just during peak hours M-F (early mornings, evenings, Saturdays?)
    d. Reduce number of students:
        i. Leave classrooms empty occasionally to reduce density
        ii. Use only a portion of available classrooms

e. Controlling traffic flow:
    i. Reduce reliance on indoor hallways and route people outside
        1. Helped by potential change to academic calendar which ends in person instruction prior to Thanksgiving.
    ii. Identify significant pinch points in hallways and divert people from them
        1. How to get a handle on this is challenging
        2. How to direct traffic patterns
        3. Would need to dedicate brain power and time to figuring this out
            a. Hallway widths are based on occupancy of the building
            b. Perhaps we are reducing the capacity of the classrooms and not using all of the classrooms, we will be sufficiently reducing the density of the hallways
            c. If possible, do some modelling of transit between hallways so we can have a sense of the target number of people to have in transit at any given time.
    iii. Consider traffic flow out of each room and direct traffic appropriately
        1. Direct traffic flow so people come in doors at the top of a lecture hall and exit via the doors at the bottom of the lecture hall?
        2. May not be necessary or desirable if we can avoid the waiting masses outside of a room
        3. In large lecture halls, the bottom corridors are often tight.
    iv. Elevators and stairwells
        1. One staircase for up, the other for down
        2. Signage on elevator reminder to request social distancing & only if necessary
            a. Wipes
            b. Limit capacity
            c. Markings on floor
        3. Reconsider certain strategies previously in place for routing people to the elevators
    v. Within classrooms and in hallways; perhaps on outside areas in the Spine
        1. Signage
        2. Markings on floors
        3. What do you do with seats that aren't supposed to be used – especially in lecture halls
            a. Remove loose chairs and tables
            b. Relocate or remove ADA stations?
f. Increase hallway capacity/reduce other people in the hallways
    i. Zoom meetings even if working in offices
    ii. Staff still working from home
    iii. Limit hours of some student service centers?
    iv. Faculty office hours – virtual, not during peak class hours
    v. Remove furniture/learning landscapes from hallways???
        1. May need to look at this case by case
g. Considerations for implementation:

i. No matter what we design, need to consider that students may not observe social distancing guidelines as we would like – design with best practices in mind, but recognize this as a reality and plan for it.
ii. We need ways to ensure that students, faculty, and staff are wearing face coverings.
    1. Policy not allowed in buildings or classes without a face mask?