

## **RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION TO REOPEN FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION THIS FALL**

1. How does Cornell explain the assumption that 9,000 students would return to/remain in Ithaca no matter what -- even if the University were to ask parents and students for them to stay away, for their own safety, as well as that of the larger community?
2. If the University were to pursue all-online teaching and students chose to return to Ithaca, why does Cornell assume it wouldn't be feasible to identify where they are living while taking courses online -- whether in Ithaca or at home?  
-If students are in Ithaca, couldn't Cornell require them to participate in surveillance testing by simply restricting their access to instruction?
3. Is Cornell making all-online instruction available to any student who wants it?  
-If not, what conditions is Cornell placing on the availability of all-online instruction?  
-Has Cornell surveyed students to see how many prefer all-online instruction?
4. What are the projected effects of a projected 1,200+ new COVID-19 cases in the Cornell community on the spread of the virus in the Ithaca and Tompkins County community, and on communities beyond the borders of Tompkins County where many people in the local workforce live?  
-What is the projected number of additional cases, hospitalizations and deaths in the surrounding community and region due to Cornell reopening?
5. Wouldn't 1,200+ new COVID-19 cases alone overwhelm the Tompkins County Health Department?  
-Might the resulting hospitalizations overwhelm the surge capacity of the hospital?
6. Is Cornell planning to invest additional resources into the Tompkins County Health Department -- for example, to support increased health care provider staffing -- to assist with the additional burden that would be placed on them due to Cornell's reopening?
7. Cornell's decision to reopen for in-person instruction was, apparently, based on modeling that was generated before the recent spikes in COVID-19 cases in many other states. Has there been any effort to update that modeling given those spikes?  
-Will Cornell revisit the decision in light of updated projections?

## **TESTING and TRACING**

8. Under Cornell's plan, who would be doing the testing of students -- Cornell personnel, Tompkins County personnel, or Cayuga Medical Center personnel?  
-Who will pay for that testing?
9. Cornell has said it expects test results may take anywhere from 24 hours to a week, and that students are expected to isolate until they have results. Some national experts have said that results that take a week are almost useless, in terms of effective contact tracing. Isn't asking students to wait a whole week for results problematic?  
-Do the projections about increased COVID-19 cases rest on the assumption of 100% compliance -- that students will isolate for a week and not go out and infect other people?
10. How reliable are the testing methodologies Cornell intends to use (e.g. chances of false negatives and false positives)?  
-Do the plans include pooled testing?  
-How feasible and reliable are the intended testing methods?
11. For countries that flattened the curve quickly, such as South Korea, rigorous contact tracing measures, including tracking apps, were used. Is Cornell's contact tracing going to include this type of measure, or will it be a continuation of the contact tracing approach being used in Tompkins County currently?

## **Plans for ENFORCEMENT**

12. Once students have arrived, what would be done (by Cornell and by local government entities) to prevail upon/require students to wear masks in public or whenever they can't socially distance?

-What does the student behavioral contract say will be the consequences for those who violate the mask order, social distancing, or other violations?

13. In general, how would the student behavioral "compact" committing them to responsible behavior be enforced?

14. Some have expressed concern about student parties that are larger than the current guidelines permit gatherings of up to 50 people, as large gatherings are a very regular occurrence in every college town. Who would enforce the safety protocols with students in off-campus, college rental areas?

-As an example, who would be called upon to respond to a midnight party with 100 students -- Cornell University Police or other Cornell staff, city or county law enforcement or other officials?

15. If students are directed to isolate or quarantine, how would those orders be enforced?

16. What are the potential mental health effects of enforcing restrictions on students?

-How would Cornell deal with those effects among large numbers of students who are back in the community?

## **Plans for QUARANTINE**

17. For students who are found to be COVID-19 positive -- either at the start of the semester or during the semester -- is Cornell's plan to quarantine these students in downtown Ithaca hotels?

-Why aren't hotels further out from the city center being considered?

-Why isn't Cornell setting up their own "infirmary space" on campus?

18. What will the instructions be to quarantined students regarding behaviors they must do to protect those in the surrounding community?

-How will their behaviors be monitored and their compliance enforced?

19. Is it true that Cornell has requested an exception to the 14-day, in-state quarantine rule for those coming from high-COVID-19 states, so as to permit a quarantine to take place for out-of-state students BEFORE leaving their home states, rather than upon their arrival in Ithaca?

-If true, what is the rationale for this special treatment for Cornell students?

-Whether or not this exemption is granted, how would the 14-day quarantine for students from high COVID-19 states be monitored or assured?

## **STATE APPROVAL**

20. Apparently, Cornell needs state approval for its reopening plan. Where is Cornell in that process? Has the University received tentative state approval?