

IUB Institutional Pandemic Fact Sheet

Although individual experiences differ, many of the circumstances that resulted from response to the pandemic affected IU's faculty. Bans on travel created obstacles for creative activities (performance in orchestras, operas, theaters and other live events; exhibitions), research (in archives or field sites), and other professional activities (invited talks, conference presentations, teaching masterclasses, adjudicating major competitions and participation in summer festivals). Requirements for physical distance in the classroom, virtual instruction for portions of spring and fall semesters, and hybrid delivery that allowed ½ the normal face-to-face time for students, reduced hands-on time for students in lab and studio courses. Researchers have experienced interruptions in access to facilities, equipment and human subjects. Closures of care facilities for children and the elderly, online instruction for school-aged children and state and county stay-at-home orders placed a unique strain on caregivers. The shift to remote work created new demands for home office space, technologies and resources.

This institutional fact sheet describes the changes in access to campus and community resources we have experienced during the pandemic. Our hope is that this lays the foundation for understanding that these changes affected faculty as a community up through the 2020-2021 academic year, and that it lightens the workload for individual faculty.

Timelines and conditions by area of impact

Federal, State and County restrictions

- Stay-at-home order went into effect on 3/20, extended through May 4 in Indiana, and then through May 15 in Monroe County

On-campus instruction

- Notified on 3/10 of shift to two weeks online following spring break (3/23-4/5)
- Notified on 3/15 of suspension of face-to-face instruction for spring semester; spring break extended one week
- Summer instruction remains fully online, residential and abroad experiences are suspended
- Fall 2020 instruction includes resumption of face-to-face for classes that are under 50 students and also allow for adherence to CDC guidelines; many courses are offered under new delivery formats including asynchronous delivery, combinations of in-person and virtual
- Beginning in mid-March and continuing through fall semester, intensive training related to new technologies for course delivery was undertaken across campus
- The continuously evolving guidelines regarding safety protocols in the classroom and other campus spaces required quick adaptation and additional development of materials. Much of the fall 2020 semester course development occurred after decisions were made in late July about best practices for new modes of delivery, such as the hybrid option(s)
- 2020-2021 Academic year calendar was adapted to include 13 weeks on campus followed by 3 virtual (and the mirror of this for spring), intersession and intensive 3-week courses are added, fall and spring break are removed from calendar

Other instructional/activity changes

- All live performance events cancelled on 3/19 for the period of 3/23-5/16 and then extended through the year, with the exception of some open air events
- All student travel abroad scheduled to begin on 5/15 or earlier was suspended on 3/13 and remained suspended through spring 2021

Travel restrictions

- Notified on 1/31 all travel to China suspended
- Notified on 2/28 all travel to CDC level 3 and above suspended (China, South Korea)
- Notified on 2/29 Level 3 or above includes China, South Korea, Iran & Italy
- Notified on 3/10 that all IU sponsored international travel suspended as well as all domestic travel outside IN; visitors to campus are discouraged; no new large (100 or more) events may be scheduled
- Notified on 3/12 all travel suspended until at least 4/6
- Travel bans extended through stay-at-home order and remained available only through special approval for the 2020-2021 academic year

Research/Creative activities in on-campus facilities

- Beginning on 3/24 and extending through July 1, all essential research activities continued only if they also complied with university guidelines (essential research included research on Covid19, clinical trials that will have a negative impact if discontinued, work related to national security, agricultural research with implications for food health and food security, activity that poses a safety hazard if discontinued, laboratory, field work, longitudinal or seasonal work where discontinuation would result in loss of significant data and samples)
- From 3/24 – 3/27 research labs and other research facilities underwent the hibernation of nonessential research activities that require labs and other campus facilities; this lasted through 6/1
- Phased resumption of research activities began 6/1 for research that requires special facilities, equipment, access to protected data, in-person contact with research subjects, or otherwise cannot be conducted remotely may be conducted on campus beginning June 1, 2020.
- Beginning 7/1 the return to other research was permitted following completion of return to campus form
- Safety protocols which require de-densification of research labs and physical distancing created the need for new scheduling and training protocols continued to affect both the pace of research and the nature of the work that can be done in lab and other collaborative settings.
- Musical facilities were closed from 3/24-6/7
- Beginning 6/8 East studio building and Simon Center (performance & rehearsal spaces) opened with safety restrictions in place; some very small groups were permitted with special approval

Research/Creative activities in off-campus facilities

- From 3/24-6/1 off-campus research for many was also suspended and then resumed to the extent possible under new travel and safety guidelines. These include research using third party facilities, research (even remote) with high-risk populations or in community-based settings, and field research without human subjects.
- Field research with human subjects is vulnerable to nonresponse bias.
- Periodic restrictions have been imposed on travel to conduct research in COVID “hot spots”

Research funding

- Interruptions in funding have been experienced, including some pauses and limited suspensions in internal funding competitions (e.g., research equipment fund, Emerging Areas of Research).
- Some funds cannot be spent as awarded given other restrictions on travel, personnel and research with human subjects

Research with visiting scholars

- Mar 23, 2020 – May 2021: Visiting scholars are permitted in university research facilities, if travel guidance is followed and with completion of CRA

Research by undergraduate students

- From Mar 23, 2020 – Aug 17, 2020, nearly all in-person research with students was suspended
- Beginning 8/18- present, research conducted by undergraduates allowed under specific guidelines

Hiring and staffing

- Notified 3/23- IU paused all staff and temporary recruitment and hiring (internal and external).
- Faculty searches are approved only on a case-by-case basis, with campus-level approval
- Additional interruptions experienced for international hires (including graduate students)

Federal leave programs and Keep IU Healthy

- Employee status maintained from 3/23-6/30 (with addition of paid sick and emergency family and medical leaves related to COVID-19, FFCRA)
- Beginning July 2020 and continuing through the calendar year, faculty were eligible for leaves (for both childcare- and non-childcare related reasons)

Pre-K child centers

- The three campus childcare centers were closed on March 13th and remained closed until August 3. The centers have operated since August 3rd, with reduced hours (8:00-4:00) with 3 interruptions that involved one class each time.
- Community-based and private childcare centers closed in March and most gradually re-opened in June and throughout the summer months (e.g., Bloomington Developmental Learning Center)
- Those with separate academic year and summer camp programs cancelled summer offerings or offered remote programming and did not re-open until August (e.g., St. Marks, Montessori)
- A few summer camps did offer limited programming, many with remote, rather than in-person options (e.g., Ivy Arts for Kids)
- Many centers continue to operate with reduced enrollments to accommodate spacing and fewer hours of operation to accommodate new cleaning and staffing protocols; most have experienced limited interruptions in response to positive COVID test results

MCCSC K-12 Community Schools

- On 3/12 parents received emergency notice that schools were suspended beginning 3/13, one day prior to spring break
- Schools shifted to remote instruction for the remainder of the school year, allowing for materials pick-up and working to continue meal pick-ups and parking lot Wi-Fi access
- All summer programs remained virtual with the exception of early childhood learning, which opened on 7/6; on 8/3 hours were extended (6:45-5:45) and an additional center was re-opened
- Fall restart was delayed from 8/5 to 8/12 and all schools began the year online
- About 1/3 of the districts children remained online for the fall semester
- On 8/31 some inclusion and vocational programs began in-person
- On 9/8 schools entered phase “yellow”, allowing in person elementary programs 5 days a week and secondary programs in hybrid format (2 days + alternate Fridays)
- On 10/12 schools moved to phase “green”, allowing 5 in-person instruction for all schools
- On 11/30 schools returned to phase “yellow”, allowing in person elementary programs 5 days a week and secondary programs in hybrid format (2 days + alternate Fridays)
- On 12/9 schools returned to phase “red”, shifting to online instruction for all through 12/18; supervised learning was offered at 5 locations for K-6 during this time
- Even after schools re-opened, after and before care options were greatly reduced and unavailable to most
- Families with children in private and charter schools experienced interruptions in meal provision and transportation, and several experienced similar shifts in format in response to local metrics