Maximizing Health and Safety and Reducing COVID transmission at ODU with Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) approach.

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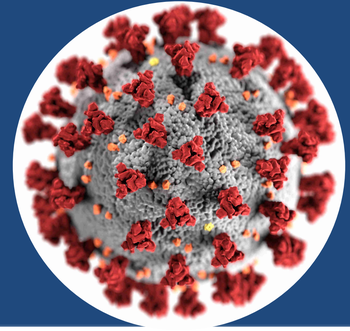

ABSTRACT

Due to the COVID19 pandemic, the school system in United Stated has been struggling to reopen the campus at full capacity and keep students safe. Old Dominion University (ODU) in Norfolk, Virginia, currently faces the COVID-19 pandemic with virtual classes, meetings, student engagement, and keeping on-campus students safe. With weekly testing offered at the dorms, on-campus students can contract COVID and become positive. In the Hampton Roads area, the Norfolk positivity rate for COVID is 15.7% as of February 1st. To combat and contain COVID for on-campus and returning students, ODU created the COVID Care Team who assist students and departments to operate safely in time of COVID19 positive student. With this team's creation, ODU was ranked as one of the safest campuses during this pandemic throughout all Virginia colleges. The COVID Care Team has strategically developed a plan, delegated tasks, and responsibilities to multiple departments on campus, including the Environmental Health and Safety, Transportation and Parking, and Dean of Students. The three departments have created intricate steps to ease the transition process: safely pick-up students and their close contacts, place them in designated dorm buildings for quarantine or isolation, assemble care packages, contact their professors on their behalf, return students to their dorms after testing negative. This research paper aims to explore ways to assist the three departments in keeping on-campus students safe by creating standard operating procedures and visual educational material. The SOP will help ODU employees to adhere to the same guidelines and minimize the spread. Visual Education aid will help students remind safety precaution steps to keep them safe.

BACKGROUND

The Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 outbreak started in 2019, an epicenter in the Hubei province of the People's Republic of China. Clinical manifestations appear in the COVID-19 individuals between 2-14 days after exposure, and symptoms vary from mild to severe. In January 2020, the World Health Organization emergency committee declared a global health emergency (Velavan & Meyer, 2020). To control the pandemic's spread, countries worldwide have introduced several measures, including social distancing, self-isolation, and locking down the cities (Bedford et al., 2020). To reduce the spread of infectious disease among the younger population, widespread closure of universities and schools has prompted. Educational institutions have either postponed or canceled all campus events and classes or transition their programs from face-to-face to online platforms. Universities and schools across the globe are adhering to CDC guidelines to maintain safety on campus. However, it is crucial to consider that many students do not have any other accommodation (Sahu, 2020). A significant shift in the learning medium has indeed caused difficulties for the students and school authorities. ODU has established a COVID care team – a task force to plan and deal with the COVID-19 crisis.

PURPOSE

- Assist COVID care team to focus on COVID-19 control measures to reduce the spread of the virus within the ODU campus community.
- To provide new perspective in developing tactics that would enhance the actions and results of the program
- Create a program evaluation in form of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and visual aid to help the departments mitigate the COVID19 surge in students and keep campus safe.
- Assess the existing safety measures in place through the public health lens and recommend the CDC approved change to the department for optimum safety of the student.

METHODS

Transportation & Parking (Safety Video)

Assess the safety measures taken by the department

Create visual aid for the Monarch transit system to help remind students about the safety measures

Environmental Health & Safety (SOP)

Assess how department helps with the covid19 positive student pick up and drop off

Create SOP for the staff for readily use to maintain the safety precautions.

DELIVERABLES

Standard Operating Procedure

Step 1
- Wash hands

Step 2
- Don all Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE)

Step 3
- Ensure the vehicle has been disinfected

Step 4
- Student Picked Up

Step 5
- **Transport student to Isolation dorm**

Step 6
- **Return to EHS parking spot**

Step 7
- **PPE removal and disposal**

Rev# / Date	Written/Revised By	Revision Description	Supervisor Review	Facility Director Review
Removed:				

How to stay safe when riding the monarch transit bus during COVID-19 pandemic – Script of Visual Aid

Self Assessment

Hand Hygiene

Adhere with face mask campus policy

Physical Distancing

EMERGENCY SITUATION

- If any outbreak is detected in campus, contact Virginia Department of Health (VDH). VDH COVID-19 hotline is (877)-275-8343.
- If 2 or more employees have COVID contact Department of Labor and Industry (provide info: address, and corrective actions taken).
- Anything medical emergency relating to a transported student call Student Health Services (SHS) at (757)-683-3132.

CONCLUSION

- New perspective in developing tactics would enhance the actions and results of the program
- Mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within the student population of ODU
- Visual content will help organization deliver the message clearly.
- Student will gain the safety education on infectious diseases

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