

NKU Decision Metrics for Campus Closure, Partial Closure, or Further De-densification

These metric guides were developed using evidence-based criteria and expert opinion. They cover most situations and are subject to revision as our understanding of the nature of the virus, the pandemic, or our regional circumstances change. They aim to decrease risk of infection but will not eliminate all risk. They may inform both on-campus and off-campus activities associated with NKU. (NKU athletics will follow league guidelines, criteria, and recommendations.)

Overview: Potential Key Decision Trigger Points

Regional Criteria

- Government action
- Capacity to support those in quarantine or isolation
- Sustained increase in hospitalizations
- Capacity to receive test results and engage in contact tracing

University Criteria

- Significant increase in number of those quarantine or isolation for NKU affiliates
- Campus clusters
- Capacity to support those in quarantine or isolation

Community Considerations

- Significant, applicable action by the governor, the Health Department, or other governmental official
- Northern Kentucky has limited occupancy to manage quarantine or isolation
- Hospital admissions for COVID-19
- Hospitals unable to treat all patients without crisis care
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) shortages impacting ability to care for COVID-19 patients
- Trends among other institutions of higher education in Kentucky and Cincinnati
- Significant upward trajectory of document COVID-19
- Decline of testing capacity and contact-tracing in region for symptomatic individuals
- Number and severity of non-compliant activities

Campus Considerations

- COVID-related deaths of student, staff, or faculty
- Employees unable to report to work, especially in critical functional areas for campus
- Inability to adequately test students for COVID-19 due to supply chain issues
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) shortages impacting ability to preserve safety on campus
- Increase in number or type of clusters
- Increase in number of unrelated cases
- Increasing cases of transmission in student population
- Inability to quarantine or isolate residential students
- Number and severity of non-compliant activities

Possible Actions

- Increased enforcement of behavioral measures
- Short in-person course suspension
- Temporary building and facility closure
- Reduced numbers of people on campus
- Closure of one or more of the residence halls
- Transition to remote learning
- On-campus closure