

Getting back to school

Rebooting education

global

Getting back to school in the next normal: A conversation about tomorrow

Getting students, faculty and staff back to school in a COVID-19 world is a complex challenge. As colleges and universities plan through a range of options, from bringing students and staff back onto campus, to being fully remote and any mix in between, one thing remains the same – the desire to return to that thriving and vibrant community that is the physical campus. Achieving this entails a nuanced balancing act of keeping students included and engaged while ensuring their safety and well-being.

Campuses are places where students live and work in close quarters, so ensuring their safety within these settings is mission critical. Challenges that higher education institutions must address within the built environment range from managing the logistical challenges of scheduling and supporting a greater number of smaller class sizes, to ensuring students have conducive private spaces to learn and reliable access to the internet, to keeping students both on campus and in residence safe.

Cover: Yerba Buena High School

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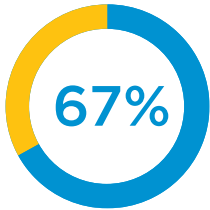
We really are like a small city and have to manage all the activities and interactions that happen within it.

Sean Coffey, Communications, Mohawk College

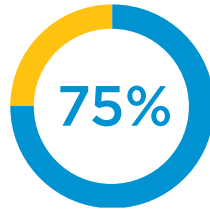
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The challenges by the numbers

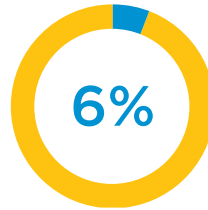
Online learning:
A challenge for many



67% of college and graduate students polled didn't find online classes as effective as in-person ones ¹



75% don't think they're receiving a quality learning experience online ²



Only 6% of faculty prefer to teach completely online courses ³

In-Person Classes:
A priority for many institutions



Over 25% of students are questioning a return to their current college or university due to the uncertainty of their school's reopening plans ⁴

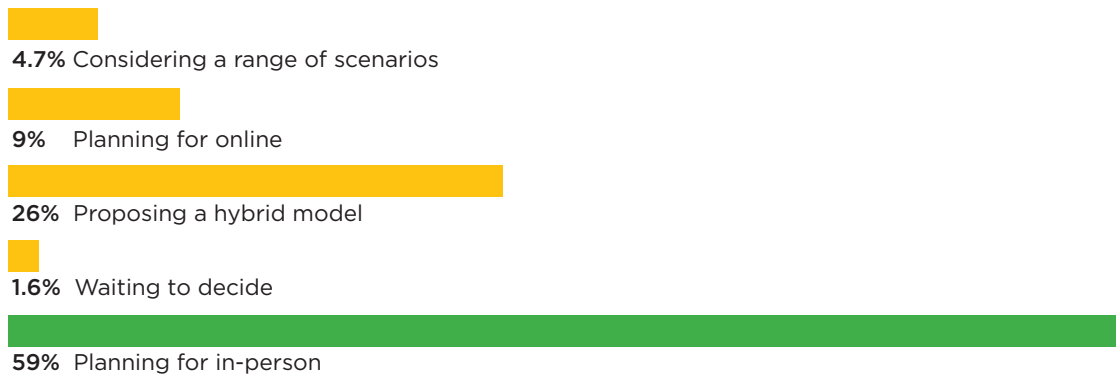


Over 640,000 international students attend Canadian colleges and universities ⁵

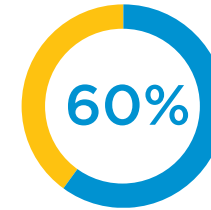


More than 1 million international students attend US colleges and universities ⁶

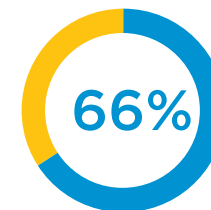
Nearly 60% of universities planning for in-person classes ⁷



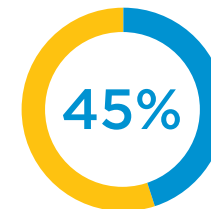
Campus Closures:
Impacting health and wellbeing



60% of college students say the pandemic has made it harder to access mental health care ⁸



66% of students report the pandemic has caused them more financial stress – a known predictor of student mental health ⁹



45% of students said that COVID-19 has had a strong or extremely strong impact on their emotional and mental preparedness ¹⁰

¹ Niche.com, April 2020

² Online exam-prep provider OneClass

³ Educause Review, <https://er.educause.edu/blogs/2020/3/faculty-readiness-to-begin-fully-remote-teaching>

⁴ TopHat

⁵ <https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/07/world/us-international-students-where-from-intl-gbr/index.html>

⁶ <https://www.cbcnews.com/2020/02/642000-international-students-canada-now-ranks-3rd-globally-in-foreign-student-attraction-Q213763.html#gs.blqw6x>

⁷ The Chronicle of Higher education

⁸ Inside Higher Ed, <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/07/13/survey-finds-higher-prevalence-depression-among-students-and-difficulties-accessing>

⁹ Source: Inside Higher Ed, <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/07/13/survey-finds-higher-prevalence-depression-among-students-and-difficulties-accessing>

¹⁰ McKinsey, <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/social-sector/our-insights/covid-19-and-us-higher-education-enrollment-preparing-leaders-for-fall>

Challenges

Some of the challenges higher education institutions must address within the built environment include:

Achieving the right balance between on-line and in-person learning, department by department.

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As we take our classes on-line, we still need to accommodate those students who don't have a computer, access to WIFI or a safe space to connect for 90 minutes of instruction at a time. The question for us becomes, 'how can we bring these students back into the school, and how do we do it safely?' Smaller class sizes down from over 30 to 12 is our strategy, with staff redeployed as teacher support.

Mary Pollett, Principal, Yerba Buena High School

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Shaping resilient environments

When it comes to furnishing your space, here are some thought starters for shaping resilient environments:

Furniture that's mobile and multi-functional can turn any space into a flex space in minutes.

- Lightweight and/or mobile tables and chairs with casters can be rolled around, pulled apart and turned around to go from individual to small, yet safe, group settings
- Turn a gymnasium into a classroom or a common area into a seminar room using flip-top tables that can then be nested and moved out of the way when not in use

Furniture that supports technology - in and out of the classroom - provides greater flexibility.

- Seating with integrated power can help you 'shelter in place'
- Desk-height power and data provides easy access so you can plug and play

McMaster University



The York School



Challenges

Some of the challenges higher education institutions must address within the built environment include:

How and when to re-purpose common areas like gymnasiums, theaters and learning commons into teaching spaces

“

Because we are an urban school with limited space, we need to get creative to ensure social distancing. We're reassigning our workspace to the kids while we, the administration, work remotely. We're also reassigning cafeteria spaces to our teachers so they can come in and meet and work at a safe social distance when they need to.

”

Praveen Muruganandan, Director Admission and Advancement, The York School

Furniture that keeps you separate yet connected

Elements can be added to create separation when proper distancing may not be feasible.

- Add screens to workstations and tables in administrative areas, classrooms and labs, or integrate freestanding panels and white boards to create separation
- Use furniture to help create health checkpoints and sanitation stations, and help direct the flow of traffic in common areas
- Include individual seating (like River Personal Harbor) in lounge areas provide opportunities to safely connect in casual and social spaces

George Brown College



The York School



Challenges

Some of the challenges higher education institutions must address within the built environment include:

How to manage traffic in and out of campus to give students and faculty the time and space to keep safe

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Bringing in students at a single point of entry and assigning them wristbands helps deal with intake. Once cleared they can move about freely for that day.

Sean Coffey, Communications, Mohawk College

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It is an interesting challenge flowing people from older, heritage buildings that typically feature narrow corridors into newer builds that feature large common spaces. We are using signage to identify single entry and exit points to avoid crowding in narrow hallways.

Ania Onichuk, Senior Interior Designer Wilfrid Laurier University

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Furniture that is reconfigurable

Furniture can be adapted to new planning norms that afford more spacing per person.

- Workstations can be reconfigured from benching to 90 degree planning and back again to create larger footprints
- Offsetting and/or rotating desks ensure staff, faculty or students don't face each other
- Screens and dividers add another layer of protection

Sheridan College



The York School



Challenges

Some of the challenges higher education institutions must address within the built environment include:

Ensuring students remain safely distanced in common areas that have been intentionally designed to encourage interaction

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It is completely apparent to us that a lot of learning happens outside of the classroom. We are doing things with an eye to undoing them again when it's safe. Adding stickers to direct traffic flow and mark off distancing at tables and on seating are temporary measures we can change or remove easily later.

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Jill Vigers, Manager Architectural Design, Engineering and Construction
Physical Resources, University of Guelph

Furniture designed for infection control

As a trusted partner, Global is ready to support you as we “get back to school.” We have over 35 years of experience partnering with hospitals to create furniture and infection-prevention protocols that set the standard for safety and wellness. Applying this experience to learning spaces, we have compiled the following information to assist you in undertaking the correct disinfecting procedures for your Global furniture.

Cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing: know the difference

While many interchangeably use the words cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing – they are not the same.

What is the difference?

Cleaning: removes visible dirt, soil and debris. It does not disinfect.

Disinfecting: eliminates bacteria, fungi and certain viruses. It does not remove dirt (clean).

Sanitizing: reduces the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements. It does not eliminate them.

The York School



McMaster University



Disinfecting your product

The chart below has been provided to you as information only. Please refer to the manufacturer's label for application, specific product detail, and its use. No warranty is implied since results may vary.

Disinfectants: Sample Brand Names	Fantastik® All Purpose Cleaner, Lysol® Disinfecting Wipes, Clorox® (non-bleach) Disinfecting Wipes, Formula 409®, Virex®, etc.	Clorox® Hydrogen Peroxide Disinfecting Cleaner, Oxivir® TB, Virox, etc.	CaviCide Wipes, Household Rubbing Alcohol, etc.	Household Bleach, Clorox® Bleach, etc. Used at 20:1 water to bleach dilution	Household Bleach, Clorox® Bleach, etc. Used at 10:1 water to bleach dilution
Disinfectants: Chemical Category	Quaternary ammonium compounds (QUATS)	Hydrogen peroxide solution	Isopropyl and ethyl alcohol/ alcohol-based (55-70%)	Sodium hypochlorite/ household bleach	Sodium hypochlorite/ household bleach
Laminate Worksurfaces + Edging/Trim	●	X	X	X	X
Wood Veneer Surfaces + Edging/Trim	●	X	X	X	X
Metal Painted Frames	●	X	●	X	X
Metal Painted Storage	●	X	●	●	X
PET Felt Screens	X	X	X	X	X
Desk Screens - Polycarbonate	X	●	●	X	X
Panel Infill - Laminate	●	X	X	X	X
Panel Infill - Glass	●	X	X	X	X
Panel Infill - Acrylic + Wellness Screens - Acrylic	●	X	X	X	X
Panel Infill - Textile	●	X	X	X	X
Work + Task Seating Bases and Frames (GFN - Glass Filled Nylon)	X	X	●	●	X
Chrome Seating Bases + Table Bases	●	●	X	X	X
Polished Aluminum Seating Bases + Table Bases	●	●	●	X	X
Armcaps (Self-Skinned Polyurethane)	●	●	●	X	X
Plastic Chairs and Armcaps (Polypropylene)	X	●	●	●	●
Seating - Performance/ Infection Control Textiles*	●	●	●	●	●
Seating - Commercial Textiles**	●	X	X	●	●

* Please refer to our website for more information on our range of performance/infection control textiles.
** Woven commercial textiles cannot effectively be disinfected due to their porous nature. Please refer to our website for more information on how to clean your textile to remove dirt.

Popular choices to get started

Global products are designed to meet the complex and unique needs of the higher education landscape.



Sirena with tablet and book shelf



Duet stacking tables and chairs



Zook flip top tables and Stream seating



River Personal Harbor and River laptop tables

Let's start a conversation

In this rapidly evolving environment, it's important the solutions created are resilient – able to quickly flex, adapt and endure as things change. So, let's start a conversation about helping you create a resilient built environment that responds to the reality of a post-COVID-19 world.