

Using our Public Health/Prevention Models to Address COVID-19

Partners in Prevention is a statewide coalition composed of institutions of higher education in Missouri and relevant state agencies working to collaboratively develop strategies for promoting positive, healthy choices among Missouri's college students. We have a proven track record of using evidence-based, data-driven strategies to address public health concerns on campuses. Based on our successful work, we are sharing this guidance with our campuses as they address COVID-19.

- Individual behavior change must be at the forefront of our work on this issue. If individuals do not comply with CDC best practices, more infections will occur
- Substance misuse prevention practitioners are uniquely positioned to contribute to an effective response to the short- and long-term impacts of COVID-19 as they have a proven track record in health crises
- In order to have systemic change on this issue, we must have strategies for sections of our community. Using the Socio-Ecological Model, here are some suggestions:



For more information, visit acha.org/HealthyCampus/HealthyCampus/Ecological_Model.aspx

In order to have systemic change on this issue, we must have strategies for different sections of our community:

Balanced

- Education and policy work must be done across the student life-span (pre-matriculation through graduation)
- In addition to COVID-19, persisting critical health concerns of students such as alcohol and other drug use, mental health concerns, and experience of interpersonal violence must be central to the plan

Comprehensive

- Address the critical health behaviors of students as intersectional
- Target health disparities, stigma and discrimination
- Use the socio-ecological model as a framework for all-encompassing efforts

Evidence-Informed

- Rely on evidence-based strategies and best practices of health education and messaging
- Implement environmental strategies such as policy implementation and enforcement
- Emphasis on trauma informed care for students, faculty, and staff
- Follow CDC guidelines which include
 - Wearing masks in public areas, including outside areas, and keeping social distance of approximately 3-6 feet

Evaluated

- Partners in Prevention will be deploying a fall 2020 COVID-19 survey to better understand health behaviors of students during campus closures

A Shared Responsibility:

- Responsibility for individual behavior is shared between the individual and the environment. All stakeholders within the environment need to share the responsibility for the condition of the environment, including students, faculty/staff, administrators, parents/families, and visitors
- Health messaging and prevention information should be part of central communications of the campus
- Empower our students to make change and take responsibility for their own health and the health of others as a member of the campus community
- Parents and family are critical, as students are often dependent on those relationships

Prevention is cost effective and necessary now more than ever to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as we transition back to on-campus learning. There are already colleagues on your campus doing prevention work who are valuable resources during this time.

A toolkit for your campus with other resources is located at pip.missouri.edu/COVID-19.html



Member Schools

Columbia College | Drury University | Evangel University | Harris-Stowe State University | Jefferson College | Lincoln University | Maryville University | Missouri State University
Missouri Southern State University | Missouri University of Science And Technology | Missouri Western State University | Northwest Missouri State University | Rockhurst University
Saint Louis University | Southeast Missouri State University | State Technical College of Missouri | Truman State University | University of Central Missouri | University of Missouri
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