

IMSA Family Repopulation Survey

Summary of Findings

September 14-18, 2020

Executive Summary

In an effort to gather as much information and input as possible from all stakeholders, IMSA implemented a series of surveys regarding how to repopulate the IMSA community on campus. Thus, the purpose of the IMSA Family Repopulation Survey was to gather feedback from IMSA parents/guardians on how they felt about various scenarios for the repopulation of the IMSA campus. In accordance with the May 20th Board of Trustees' decision, a return to campus would be possible when the entire State of Illinois meets the criteria for the "Restore Illinois" plan and there is treatment or a vaccine for COVID-19.

The IMSA Family Repopulation Survey was conducted from Monday, September 14, 2020 through Friday, September 18, 2020. There were a total of 451 responses to the survey. There were 651 students enrolled at IMSA during the survey period, which translates into a 69% response rate if only one parent/guardian per student responded to the survey. However, the exact response rate cannot be calculated because the survey was anonymous and more than one parent/guardian per student could have responded to the survey.

Summary of Quantitative Findings

- The large majority of parents/guardians (75-85%) indicated that they would feel comfortable or very comfortable with their IMSA student's return to campus with each of several requirements in place, including wearing masks, social distancing, and single room occupancy only, etc.
- Similarly, the large majority of parents/guardians (75-85%) indicated that they would be likely or very likely to allow their IMSA student to return to campus with each of the requirements in place.
- Although the ratings for the restrictions were lower than were those for the requirements, majority of parents/guardians (67-75%) indicated that that they would be likely or very likely to allow their IMSA student to return to campus with each of several restrictions in place, including students not being permitted to leave campus, have external visitors, and eat in certain locations, etc.
- If all of the restrictions were in place, the large majority (81%) of parents/guardians indicated they would be willing to allow their IMSA student to return to and stay on campus. The length of how long parents/guardians would be willing to allow their IMSA student to stay ranged from one month (32%) to the entire semester (29%).
- Just over nine out of ten parents/guardians (91%) indicated they would be willing to have their IMSA student tested for COVID-19 prior to returning to campus.
- Similarly, 91% of parents/guardians indicated that both students and employees should be tested for COVID-19 prior to returning to campus, while a minority indicated that neither students nor employees (6%) or students only (1%) or employees only (1%) should be tested.
- When asked what they saw as the greatest benefit for IMSA students return to campus, the majority of parents/guardians responded that academics (39%) or social/emotional (37%) was the greatest benefit.

Summary of Qualitative Findings

- Many parents/guardians listed the safety and health of IMSA students and staff, including faculty, as a top priority for IMSA to consider in the repopulation plan.
- Along a similar line of thought, a large number of parents/guardians responded that it is imperative for IMSA to consider enforcing strict adherence to safety protocols, including social distancing and wearing masks, and implementing testing protocols in the repopulation plan.
- A large number of parents/guardians indicated that they believed that it would be difficult to enforce the safety protocols and that many students may not comply, which could lead to students and staff, including faculty, being placed at risk.
- Along a similar line of thought, some parents/guardians indicated that they believed that the repopulation of the IMSA campus would be safe and should occur only if a vaccine is widely available.
- Another prevalent theme in parents/guardians' open-ended comments was a concern for students' social and emotional well-being.
- On a related note, many parents/guardians asserted that allowing students to return to campus was an essential factor for IMSA to consider in the repopulation plan due to students' social and emotional well-being.
- Many parents/guardians indicated that they would like for their student to return to campus with fewer requirements and restrictions because a number of the requirements/restrictions would negatively impact students' mental health and well-being.
- Some parents/guardians argued that IMSA should be a closed campus thereby creating a bubble in which the students could move more freely.
- Many parents/guardians indicated that a return to campus would not be worth it if all of the listed requirements and restrictions were in place.
- A number of parents/guardians indicated that they believe that seniors should be given priority in terms of which students should be allowed back on campus first.

Next Steps

The survey findings are being utilized to inform the creation of IMSA's repopulation plan.

Demographic Information of Respondents' IMSA Students

Parents/guardians were asked to provide demographic information for their IMSA student. (Please refer to the figures at the end of the document for complete breakdown of the demographic information.) Around 3% of parents/guardians indicated they had more than one IMSA student. For these parents/guardians, the youngest student was selected for the current analyses. Around 30% of the parents/guardians indicated that their IMSA student was a senior, 30% responded that their IMSA student was a junior, and 40% indicated that their IMSA student was a sophomore.

Parents/guardians were asked to indicate in which of the 11 Restore Illinois regions their IMSA student's primary household is located. There were responses from all 11 regions, and the largest number of responses indicated their IMSA student's primary household was in the following regions: Region 8 West Suburban (26%), Region 2 North Central (17%), and Region 10 Suburban Cook (16%).

Just under half of the parents/guardians responded that their IMSA student was female (48%). When asked to provide the race/ethnicity their IMSA student, parents/guardians answered as follows: 44% White, 30% Asian, 9% Black, 8% Hispanic, and 8% Two or More Races, and under 1% American Indian/Alaska Native. Finally, just under a fifth (19%) of respondents indicated that their IMSA student or another member of their household was at higher risk of complications from COVID-19.

Quantitative Findings

Parents/guardians were asked to read a series of statements representing various requirements that will or may be mandatory when IMSA students return to campus. The requirements listed included the following: 1) Masks must be worn at all times (unless the student is in their room with their door closed or they are eating/drinking); 2) Social distancing will be strictly enforced; 3) Single room occupancy for all residence hall rooms; 4) It **may** be necessary for students to take some or all classes from their residence hall room; and 5) It **may** be necessary for certain student support services (advising, tutoring, etc.) to remain remote while students are on campus. For each requirement, parents/guardians were asked rate the following: 1) how comfortable they would feel about their IMSA student's return to campus and 2) how likely they would be to allow their student to return to campus.

- The large majority of parents/guardians (75-85%) indicated that they would feel comfortable or very comfortable with their IMSA student's return to campus with each of the requirements in place.
 - The requirement that received the highest rating was single room occupancy for all residence halls – 85% of parents/guardians indicated they would feel comfortable or very comfortable with that requirement in place.
 - The requirement that received the lowest rating was students needing to take some or all of their classes from their residence hall – 75% of parents/guardians indicated they would feel comfortable or very comfortable with that requirement in place.
- Similar to the comfort ratings, the large majority of parents/guardians (75-85%) indicated that they would be likely or very likely to allow their IMSA student to return to campus with each of the requirements in place.

- Once again, the requirement that received the highest rating was single room occupancy for all residence halls – 85% of parents/guardians indicated they would be likely or very likely to allow their IMSA student to return to campus with that requirement in place.
- Yet again, the requirement that received the lowest rating was students needing to take some or all of their classes from their residence hall – 75% of parents/guardians indicated they would be likely or very likely to allow their IMSA student to return to campus with that requirement in place.

Parents/guardians were also asked to read a series of scenarios statements representing various restrictions that could be in place when IMSA students return to campus. The restrictions included that students MAY not be permitted to: 1) Leave campus, including visits home and non-essential medical/dental visits, until an established date (e.g., extended weekend); 2) Have external visitors on campus, with the exception of urgent matters; 3) Eat in usual locations or obtain food "buffet style" (e.g., food may be boxed and available for consumption within each student's residence hall room or other designated area); 4) Participate in local entertainment (e.g., walking trips, recreational shuttle trips, external sporting events); 5) Take non-essential shopping trips (e.g., groceries, personal care supplies); and 6) Participate in campus-sponsored activities involving other schools. For each restriction, parents/guardians were asked rate how likely they would be to allow their IMSA student to return to campus.

- Although the ratings for the restrictions were lower than were those for the above requirements, majority of parents/guardians (67-75%) indicated that that they would be likely or very likely to allow their IMSA student to return to campus with each of the restrictions in place.
 - The restriction that received the highest rating was students not being permitted to have external visitors on campus, with the exception of urgent matters single room occupancy for all residence halls – 75% of parents/guardians indicated they would be likely or very likely to allow their IMSA student to return to campus with that restriction in place.
 - The requirement that received the lowest rating was students not being permitted to leave campus, including visits home and non-essential medical/dental visits, until an established date (e.g., extended weekend) – 67% of parents indicated they would be likely or very likely to allow their IMSA student to return to campus with that restriction in place.
 - The majority of parents/guardians (72%) responded that be likely or very likely to allow their IMSA student to return to campus if all of the restrictions were in place.
 - If all of the restrictions were in place, the large majority (81%) of parents/guardians indicated they would be willing to allow their IMSA student to return to and stay on campus. The length of how long parents/guardians would be willing to allow their IMSA student to stay ranged from one month (32%) to the entire semester (29%).

Parents were overwhelmingly willing to have their IMSA student tested for COVID-19 and were in favor of all IMSA students and employees prior to a return to campus.

- Just over nine out of ten parents/guardians (91%) indicated they would be willing to have their IMSA student tested for COVID-19 prior to returning to campus.
- Similarly, 91% of parents/guardians indicated that both students and employees should be tested for COVID-19 prior to returning to campus, while a minority indicated that neither students nor employees (6%) or students only (1%) or employees only (1%) should be tested.

When asked what they saw as the greatest benefit for IMSA students return to campus, the majority of parents/guardians responded that academics or social/emotional was the greatest benefit.

- Parents/guardians endorsed the following factors as the greatest benefit: academics (39%), social/emotional (37%), college preparedness (6%), facility resources (2%), and other (17%).
 - The majority of the other responses indicated a combination of academics and social/emotional or “all of the above.”

Qualitative Findings

In addition to the quantitative survey questions, parents/guardians were asked to respond to the following open-ended question: What factors/concerns do you think are the most important for IMSA to consider in the repopulation plan? Below are the themes from parents/guardians’ open-ended comments.

Health and Safety First

Many parents/guardians listed the safety and health of IMSA students and staff, including faculty, as a top priority for IMSA to consider in the repopulation plan. One parent/guardian stated, “Student and teacher safety [is most important]. It doesn’t have to be 100%, but a reasonable level of safety is paramount.”

Some parents/guardians indicated that they were not willing to send their students back to campus for the time being due to concerns of possible exposure to COVID-19. According to one parent/guardian, “Student safety and well-being [is most important]. We’re not willing to take any risk and possible exposure to COVID19 by sending to IMSA residential campus life.”

- Additional Comments Regarding Health and Safety
 - “Student and teacher safety. It doesn’t have to be 100%, but a reasonable level of safety is paramount.”
 - “COVID long-haulers, hidden heart & lung damage. We don’t know enough, and won’t until vaccine safety/effectiveness is established. Too much at stake. You would have to LOCK DOWN that campus like NHL.”
 - “Health of the Students: If anyone is in a danger of losing their life due to unsafe environment it could be a permanent shame of IMSA. Please consider to make sure the healthy environment.”
 - “Safety of both students & staff should be the number one consideration.”
 - “HEALTH AND SAFETY! Given the research on long-term risks associated with COVID-19 infection (even for those who are cured), I’ll NOT trust ANY authority to be responsible for my child’s health.”

Strict Adherence to Safety Protocols, Including Testing Protocols

Along a similar line of thought, a large number of parents/guardians responded that it is imperative for IMSA to consider enforcing strict adherence to safety protocols, including social distancing and wearing masks, and implementing testing protocols in the repopulation plan. One parent/guardian wrote, “Willingness to cooperate with safety measures is the most important factor. Anyone who cannot commit 100% can learn

remotely.” Another parent/guardian stated, “IMSA must establish clear rules for students and parents with clear consequences if those rules are not followed.”

Many parents/guardians indicated that they would like for IMSA to regularly test students and staff, including faculty, if students return to campus. According to one parent/guardian, “IMSA should have wide spread testing plan and very frequent testing where all members are tested, quarantined, contact traced as necessary.”

- Additional Comments Regarding Strict Adherence to Safety Protocols and Testing Protocols
 - “Willingness to cooperate with safety measures is the most important factor. Anyone who cannot commit 100% can learn remotely.”
 - “Social distancing, wearing mask, and keeping the environment sanitized.”
 - “Sticking to the plan and not letting people be the exceptions to the rules. Either they all do it or no one does. Too many people think they are too important to follow the rules.”
 - “Test all for COVID every week. Do not allow students to socialize in person on campus. Fine them if they do not follow very strict COVID guidelines. UIUC is testing every student twice a week.”
 - “Strict social distancing, usage of face masks, no in-person group activities.”
 - “Our family adheres strictly to recommendations of wearing masks and social distancing. I would expect strict campus enforcement.”
 - “A mandatory testing protocol is welcome to protect everyone's safety. My student would follow all rules to be attend in person.”
 - “Consider utilizing the Virolens product which provides test results in 30 seconds or the U of I test model.”
 - “After Covid-19 testing, and after a couple of weeks, if students stay on campus they should be very, very safe. If faculty/staff is meticulously careful, they will not bring Covid into campus.”
 - “Frequent testing: If students are tested and effectively quarantined within a campus bubble/small cohorts etc. returning to campus could be done safely. Rapid testing results for staff also critical.”
 - “The most important factor to sending students back is testing everyone (students and faculty) on a continuing basis (several times each week).”
 - Need a negative test to return back to class. I would be ok with only allowing them to come home during holiday/ break times not just a weekend necessarily.

Return to Campus is Risky

A large number of parents/guardians indicated that they believed that it would be difficult to enforce the safety protocols and that many students may not comply, which could lead to students and staff, including faculty, being placed at risk. One parent/guardian wrote, “I think that there are too many people who don't take COVID seriously. Their children, who are in high school, therefore also do not take it seriously.”

- Additional Comments Regarding Return to Campus is Risky
 - “The main factor is that there will be students/families who put others at risk and IMSA cannot fully control for. Residential campuses (colleges/universities) are the new virus hot spots.”
 - “Understanding that children do not always do the right things and may not follow ALL the set rules needed to guarantee a reduction in the transmission of this virus.”
 - “Kids partaking in unwarranted activities that involve breaking social distancing guidelines putting other students' safety at risk.”

- “IMSA needs to have a 100% realistic view of how likely students are to adhere to all rules. Having watched colleges struggle with this leads me to believe that students will find ways to break rules.”

Vaccine is a Necessity

Along a similar line of thought, some parents/guardians indicated that they believed that the repopulation of the IMSA campus would be safe and should occur only if a vaccine is widely available. One parent/guardian stated, “It is my recommendation that IMSA does not allow for repopulation without a clear, approved vaccine that is available to the public.” Another parent/guardian wrote, “Because COVID is still SO prevalent, it is very risky to return to campus until the vaccine is released and everyone is vaccinated.”

- Additional Comments Regarding Vaccine is a Necessity
 - “A vaccine is critical prior to return to campus. If a vaccine is not available, I am very uncomfortable but might consider a return to campus if every strict measure discussed is taken.”
 - “The students are minors. I don't believe they should return until a vaccine.”
 - “I would not send my child return to IMSA if it is before a vaccine because she cannot live alone and not see anyone for a month(s) at a time and it is not fair to teachers to put them at risk.”
 - “Safety first. Remote learning should be in place. I prefer my child is safe and IMSA should maintain the original plan that a vaccine or treatment be ready before they return to campus.”

Students' Social and Emotional Well-Being

Another prevalent theme in parents/guardians' open-ended comments was a concern for students' social and emotional well-being. Many indicated that being isolated from their friends and activities has taken a toll on their student's well-being. One parent/guardian stated, “The negative social/emotional impact for students of this age group to be at home and physically isolated from each other for 6 months now, with no concrete end in sight, cannot be underestimated.”

- Additional Comments Regarding Students' Social and Emotional Well-Being
 - “I feel the kids should be able to have some contact with each other or it's the same as being home in their bedrooms. This isolation for teenagers is unhealthy and they miss their friends at school.”
 - “The only reason to open is social/emotional. To give kids a chance at normalcy. However, with restrictions in place it would not be a normal experience for anyone. Meal time worries me the most.”
 - “Social emotional aspects of the student. This lock down has been especially hard for IMSA students because their whole friends/activities/academics are not where they live. They have been locked away!!”
 - “As of now, fatality rate for healthy individuals is very low while the emotional distress, lack of team's sports, lack of in person social interaction can have a more longer and detrimental effect.”

Return to School for Students' Social-Emotional and Academic Well-Being

On a related note, many parents/guardians asserted that allowing students to return to campus was an essential factor for IMSA to consider in the repopulation plan. For these parents/guardians, having students return to campus was extremely important for social-emotional reasons as well as academic ones as well. One parent/guardian stated, “I fully support the return to campus. ASAP. The impact IMSA has had on my

son is life changing. Being in Southern IL and being removed from his complete social circle has caused mental health issues.” According to another parent/guardian, “Students that choose to attend IMSA do so for the advanced academic opportunities that aren't available at other institutions. Getting back to in person academics is paramount!!!”

Some parents/guardians made the argument that families should make the choice as to whether or not to send their students back to campus. One parent/guardian stated, “PLEASE LET THE STUDENTS COME BACK, or at least give them a choice to continue with remote learning or return to campus. This is not a one size fits all situation. Give the students and families’ choice.”

- Additional Comments Regarding Return to School for Student’s Social and Emotional Well-Being
 - “We are at IMSA for the social-emotional connections to other like-minded kids. Please return to dorm living. If colleges can do this, IMSA should be at least trying!”
 - “Let the students who want to come back return, and give the ones that don’t a remote learning option. Everyone is being punished to protect the few vulnerable.”
 - “I think it is very important to get students back on campus. I have no real concerns other then I'm not in support of not allowing students to come home.”
 - “The importance of the students getting back to in-person learning.”
 - “They need to be in school. This is one of the biggest reasons we chose IMSA. They can be tested and then not leave campus which should solve any concerns.”
 - “As long as the school is following all CDC recommendations, I fully support the return of my son to on campus learning ASAP.”

Return to School with Fewer Requirements and Restrictions

Many parents/guardians indicated that they would like for their student to return to campus with fewer requirements and restrictions. These parents/guardians indicated that a number of the requirements/restrictions would negatively impact students’ mental health and well-being. According to one parent/guardian, “I do not think it supports mental health to have kids eating their meals alone in their rooms. I would want to see some option for safe congregate meals, perhaps small groups w/ spacing, cleaning.”

Some parents/guardians argued that IMSA should be a closed campus thereby creating a bubble in which the students could move more freely. One parent/guardian indicated, “Consider roommates as a household so that everyone can return to campus...I think you should create a bubble and close campus so it can run NORMALLY, no masks or social distance. Have admins/teachers OFF campus doing online school for students in their dorms.”

- Additional Comments Regarding Return to School with Fewer Requirements and Restrictions
 - “If a vaccine is not available, test everyone before they arrive to campus, and limit off-campus interaction, but don't limit on-campus interaction.”
 - “If all are tested prior to returning why force them to wear masks everywhere if they are isolated to campus only and no one on campus has COVID why not let them behave normally?”
 - “Roommates are necessary for students’ emotional health. Without it, it would be miserable and lonely. In the past, my child has complained about boxed lunches. It is not advisable for sole food

source... My child wants to go back, but only if she can have a roommate, because otherwise it would be better to be with family. Boxed lunches are inedible and if they also can't eat out, they will go hungry."

- "They shouldn't feel more isolated on campus than they do at home. Seems if all were tested prior to returning, then the campus was "locked down" with no visitors, that they should be able to live together, attend classes and eat together. If there's NO interaction once they're on campus then I don't see the point of returning. I feel strongly that they NEED to return and interact freely to learn."

Return to Campus Not Worth it with Requirements and Restrictions in Place

Many parents/guardians indicated that a return to campus would not be worth it if all of the listed requirements and restrictions were in place. Given that scenario, they argued that distance learning would continue to be a better option for their student. One parent/guardian stated, "If students will not be allowed to return to class in person and be so restricted that they lose the IMSA experience there is no benefit to having them on campus. They can do online classes from home." According to another parent/guardian, "The kids need to be able to interact with each other on campus. Isolating is the same as learning from home and accomplishes nothing."

- Additional Comments Regarding Return to Campus Not Worth It
 - "One of the Hallmarks of your curriculum has been your method of teaching - intuitive, interactive and impressive! If students were to be isolated aka "remote" learning, they are better off NOW."
 - "As a parent I feel you cannot isolate the students in their rooms. The students need exercise, social interaction and activities."
 - "The most important concern for me is to be able to see my son and take him home. If this cannot be done safely, it is better to stay home."
 - "It's more advantageous to stay home if the social interaction on campus can't happen safely, e.g. roommate, clubs, study groups, team sports, social events."
 - "Social emotional- the restrictions remind me of a jail. I prefer my child to stay home and do remote learning than to be locked up like this."
 - "If to open safely, everyone must stay in separate rooms, wear masks, and social distance, I am not sure that it isn't better to just stay remote. At least at home, students can have normal interaction."

Who Should Return to Campus First?

A number of parents/guardians indicated that they believe that seniors should be given priority in terms of which students should be allowed back on campus first. One parent/guardian stated, "I think priority for campus return should be given to seniors. Other students are likely to have a fairly normal experience at IMSA in 2021-2022. This is the last chance for seniors." Although a handful of parents/guardians indicated that other students (e.g., low-income students, sophomores, etc.) should be prioritized, the majority of those who listed an opinion endorsed prioritizing seniors.

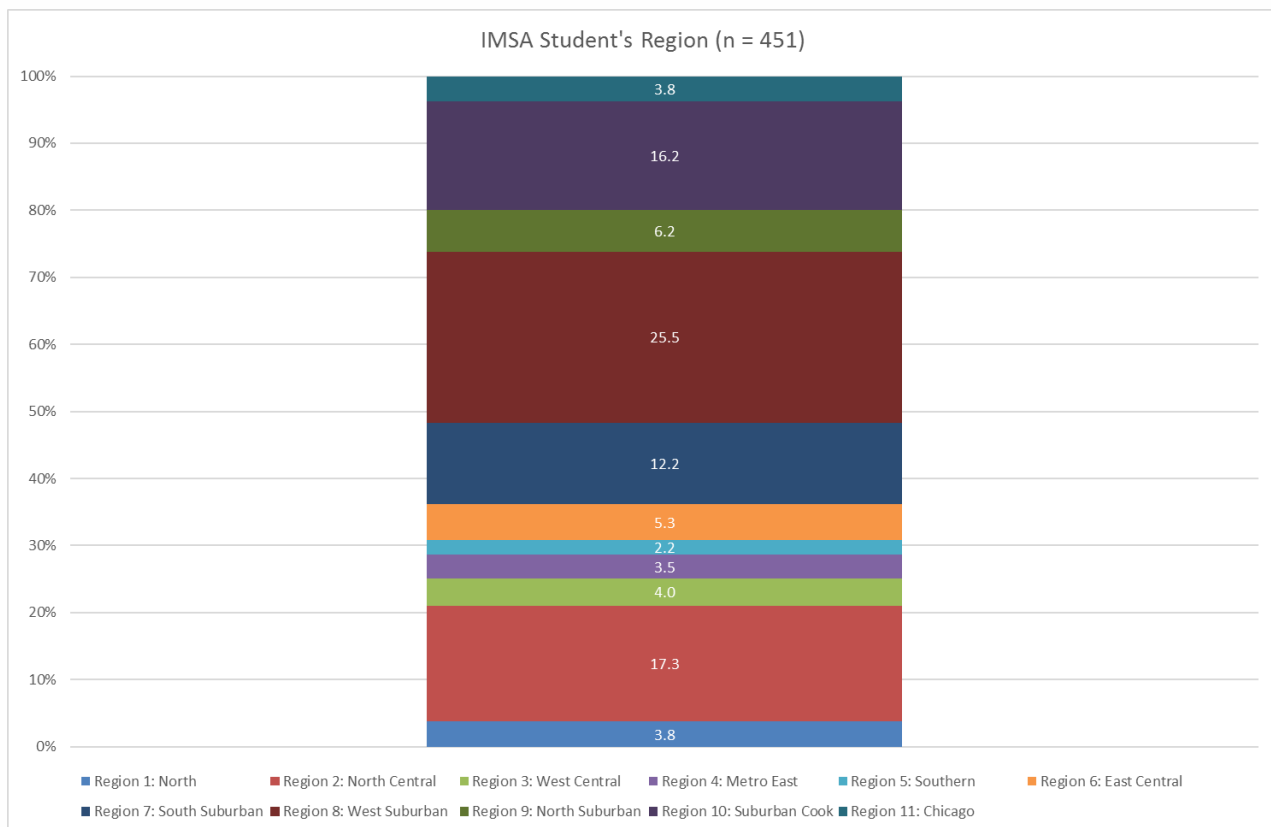
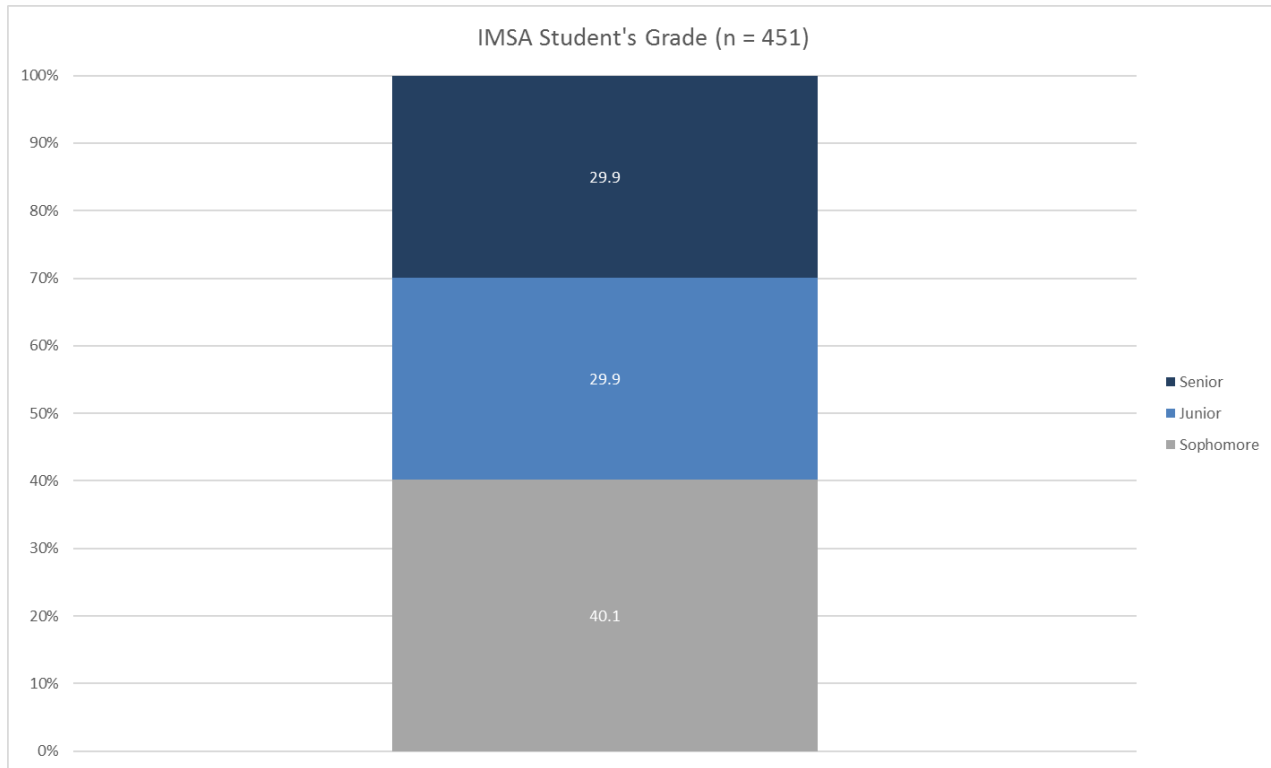
- Additional Comments Regarding Who Should Return to Campus First
 - "I think that IMSA should consider letting the senior class back on campus as soon as feasibly possible. The students need to be back in the environment where they can collaborate with their

classmate on campus. I believe it is not only academically better for them but emotionally better for them as well. I would like to see administration make this possible.”

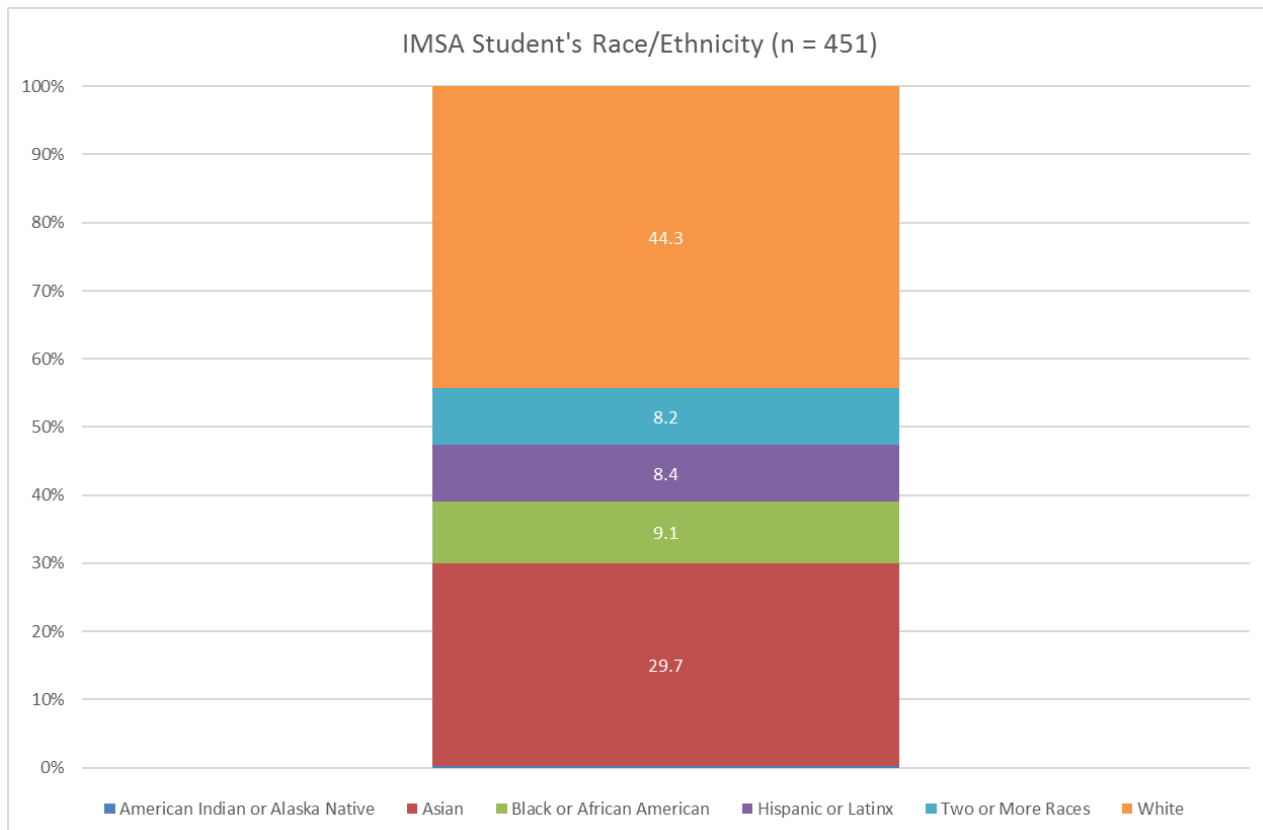
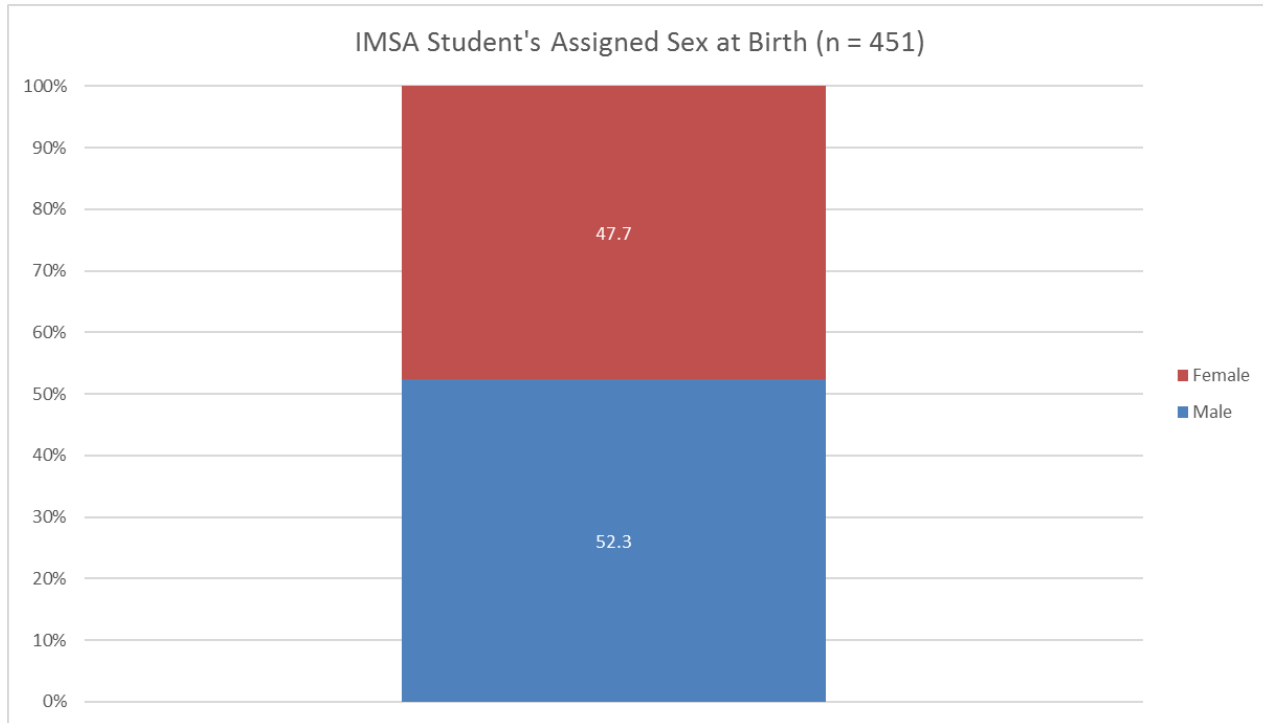
- “Get the Seniors back on campus.”
- “I believe Seniors should be given precedence in returning to campus.”
- “Give priority to seniors, then juniors and lastly sophomores, to populate the campus so as to have a fair college preparedness.”
- “Senior should be allowed to go back to school since this is the last and very important year for them.”
- “For seniors, this year will be their last chance to experience IMSA and leave a legacy for following student classes.”
- “Seniors getting to finish their experience at IMSA.”
- “I also think the first group of students to repopulate the campus should be the seniors.”
- “Bringing in the children of low income families.”
- “I think sophomores should be given priority to move back to campus first. They do not have the social connections that older students do.”
- “I would support a phased repopulation of campus starting with the students that are MOST in need of the in person learning experience.”
- “Everybody should have a chance to return, not only half of the students, so nobody is left behind. Each roommate pair can be considered as a household, according to the COVID guidelines.”

Data Points of Interest

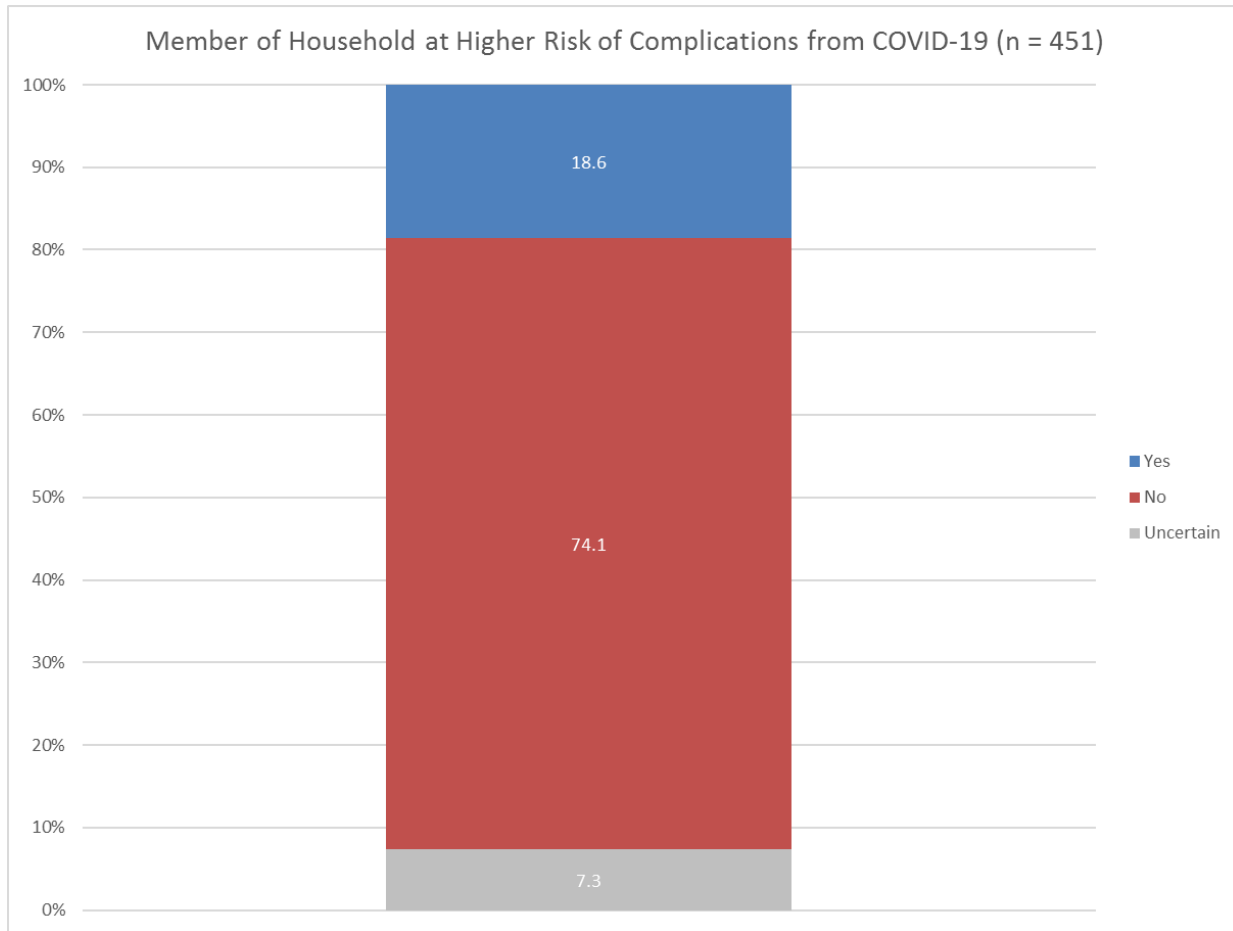
Demographic Information of Respondents' IMSA Students



Demographic Information of Respondents' IMSA Students (continued)

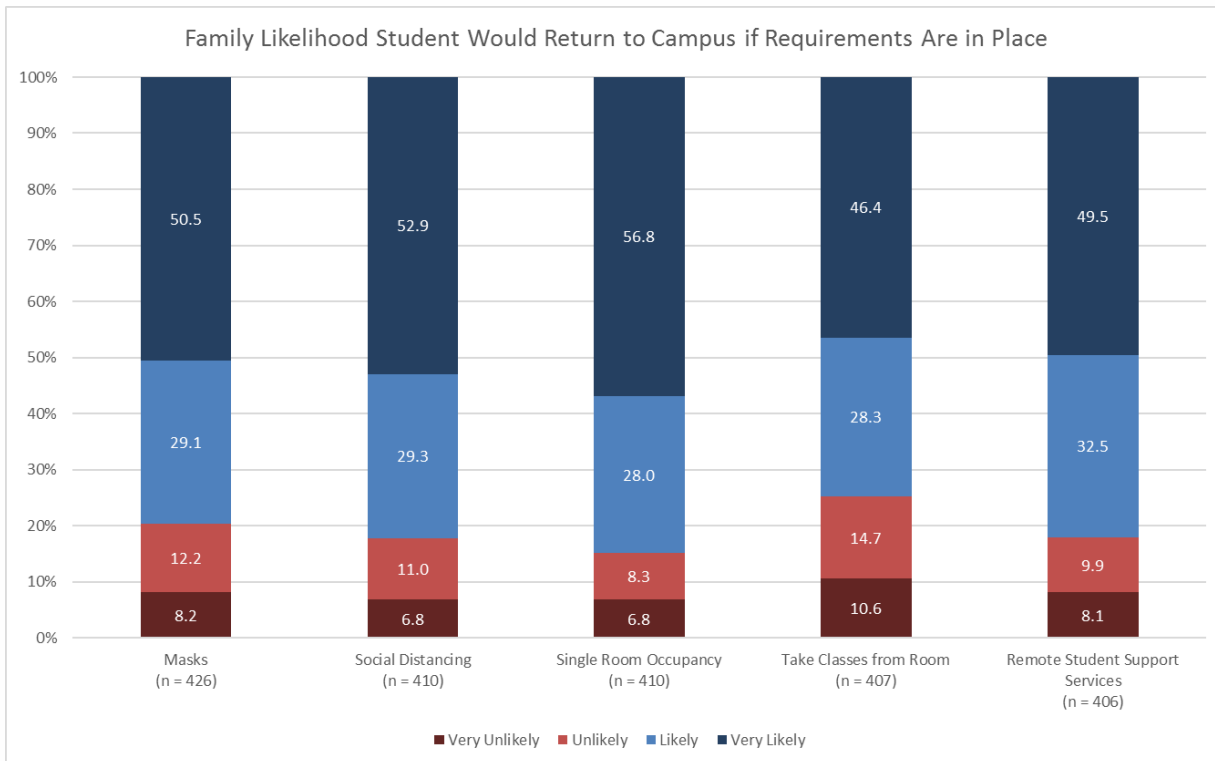
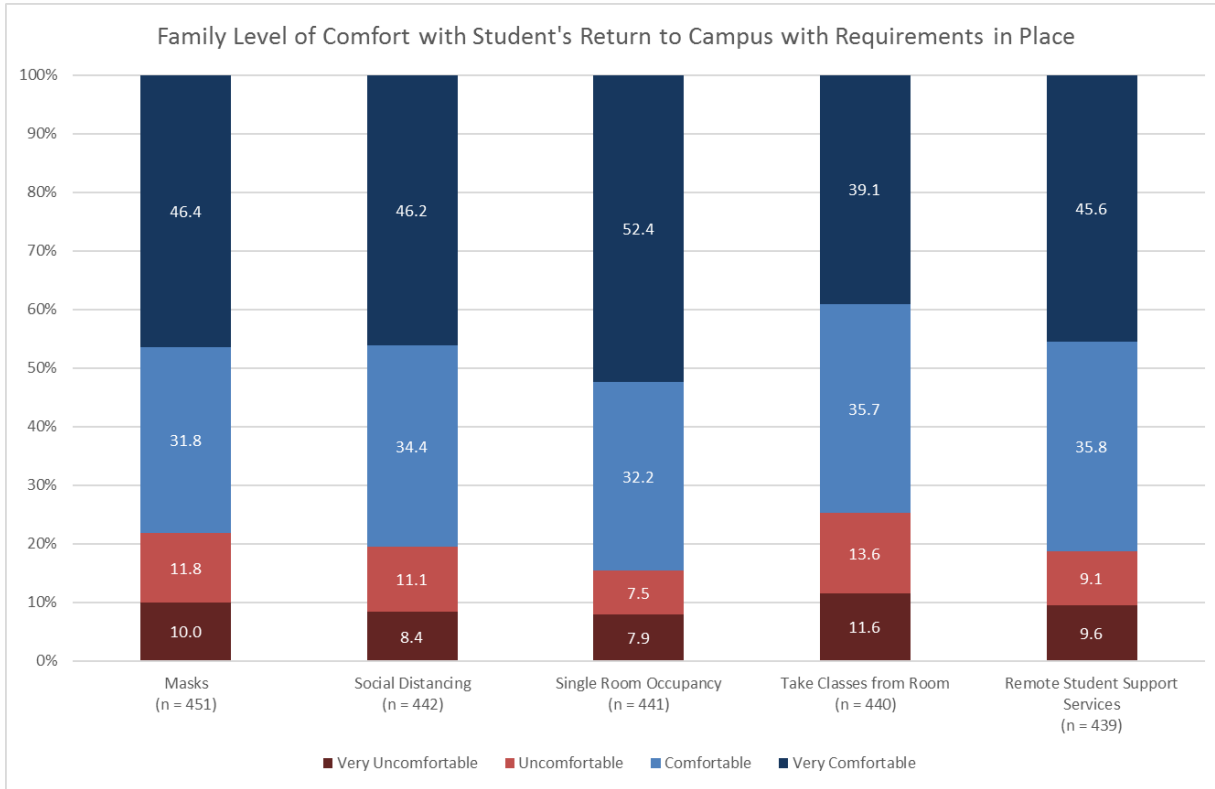


Demographic Information of Respondents' IMSA Students (continued)



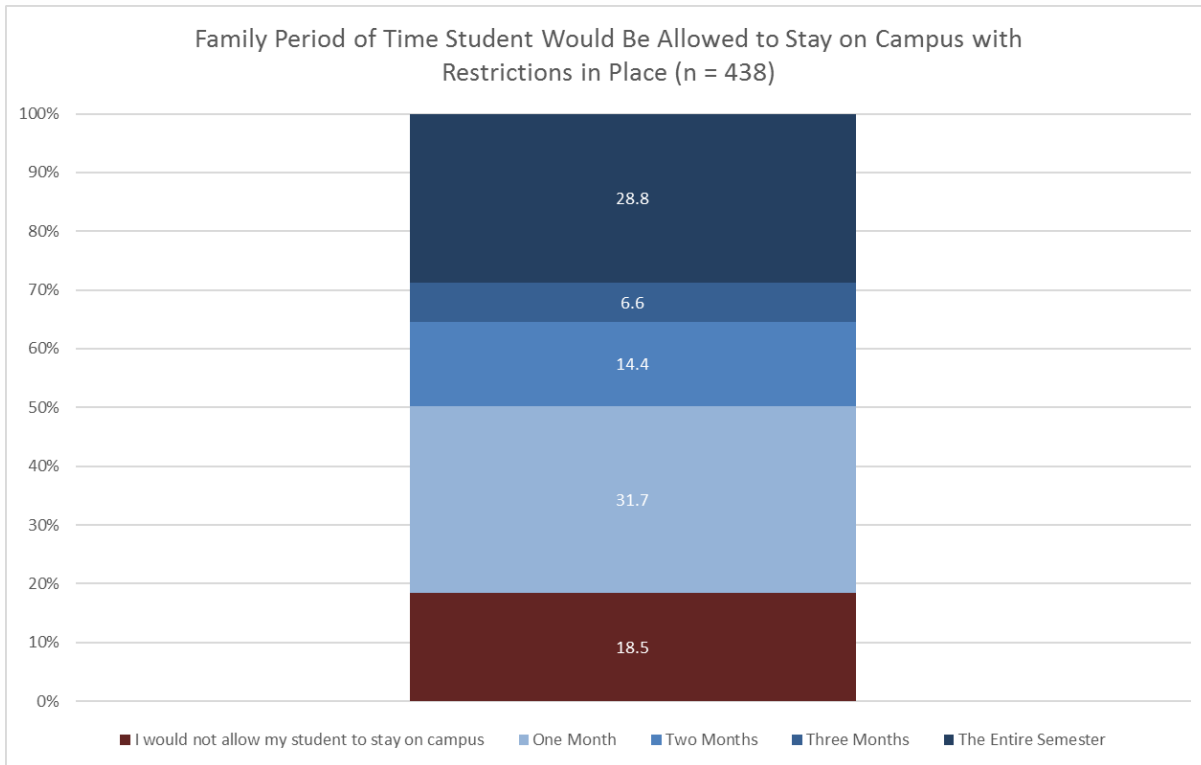
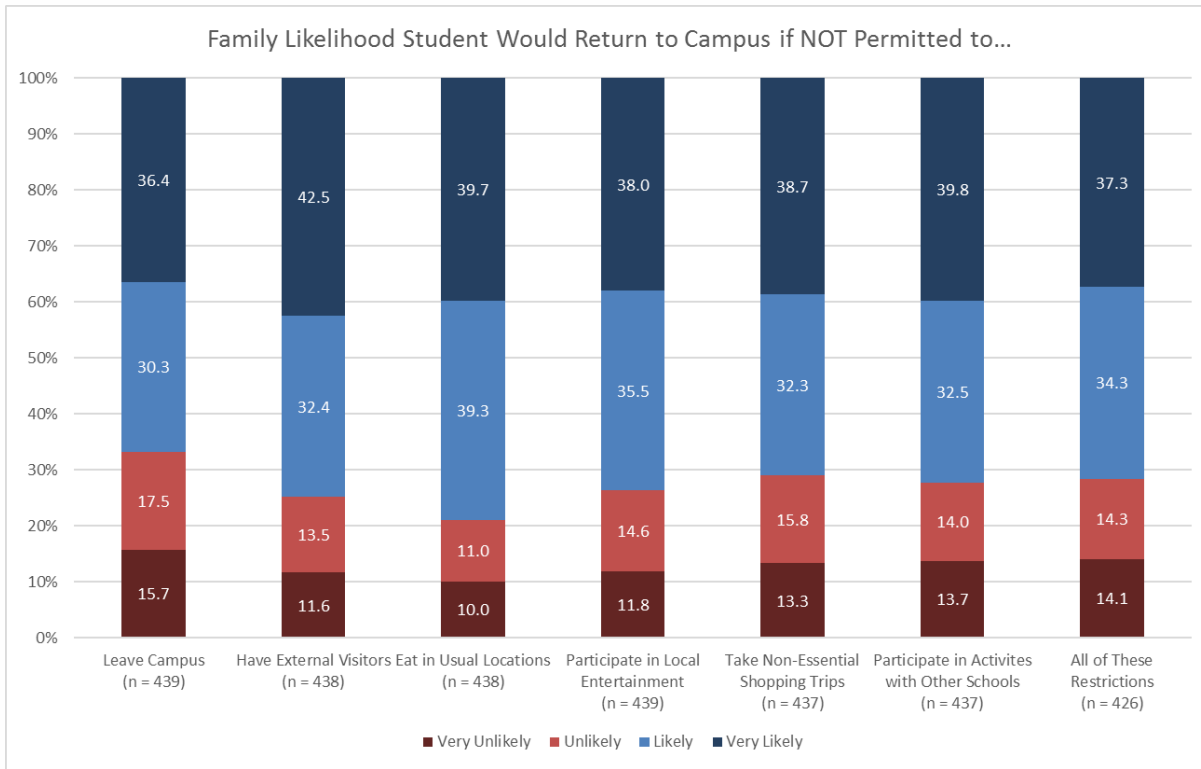
Data Points of Interest

Family Level of Comfort and Likelihood of Student's Return to Campus with Requirements in Place



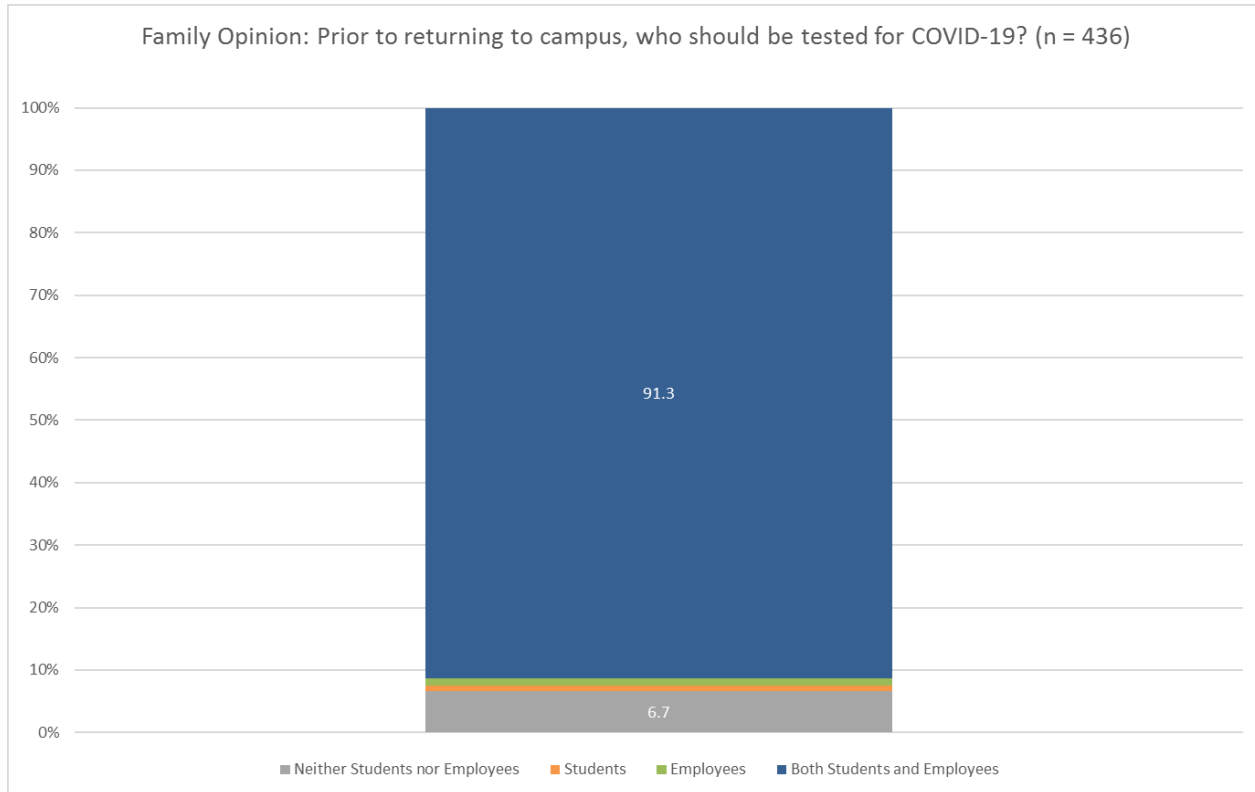
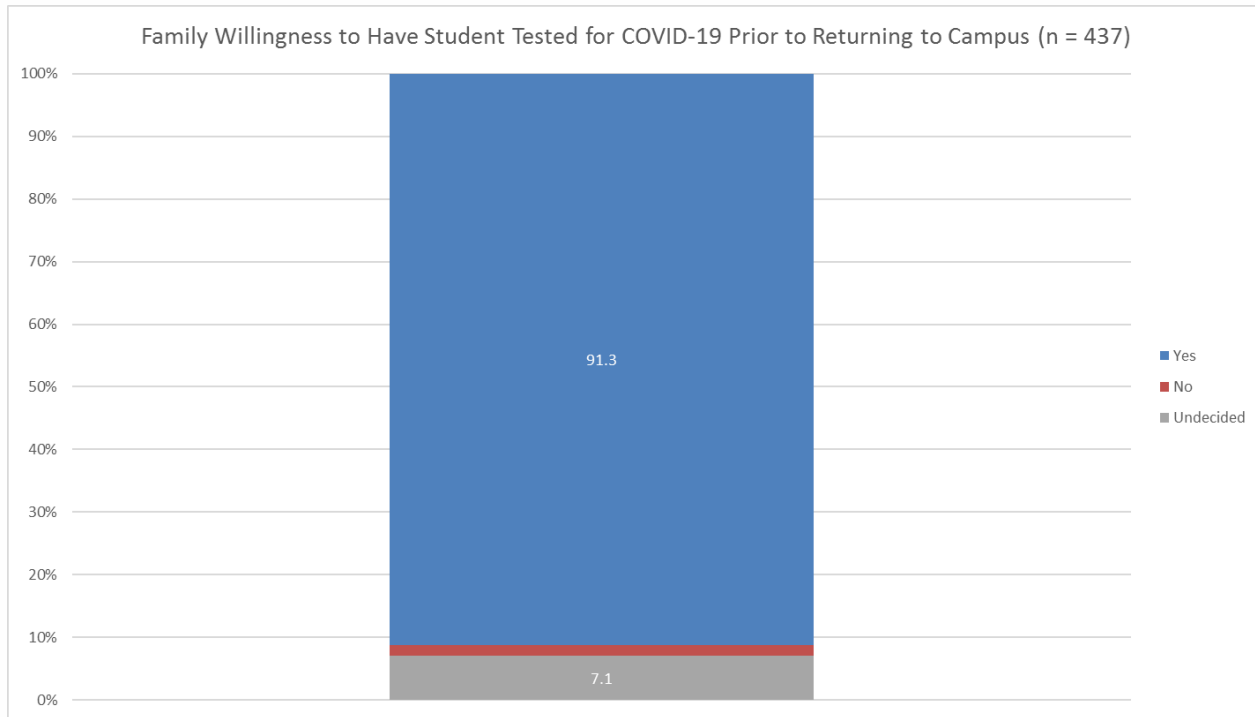
Data Points of Interest

Family Likelihood of Student's Return to Campus and Time Allowed to Stay on Campus with Restrictions in Place



Data Points of Interest

Family Feedback on COVID-19 Testing Prior to Returning to Campus



Data Points of Interest

Family Feedback on Greatest Benefit for Students to Return to Campus

