



630.907.5000 . 1500 SULLIVAN ROAD, AURORA, IL 60506-1000 . IMSA.EDU

Return to Learn Q & A

We understand there are many questions students and families have about returning to campus. This document contains answers to questions we have received after the Feb. 19 return to learn announcement. It will be updated and added to on a regular basis. Students and Parents are encouraged to read the [Titan Pact: Repopulation Plan](#) and the [Addendum](#) which addresses many of the questions we have received.

Updated April 1, 2021

Q: How will students be monitored in the classrooms during remote instruction?

A: Classroom monitors will consist of IMSA staff from across the Academy including members of the Principal's Office and Center for Teaching and Learning. Classroom monitors will have a presence in the classroom at the start and conclusion of the class, and at least twice during the mod.

Classroom monitors will serve to ensure the safety of the students and promote an environment conducive to learning for all courses offering in-person instruction during repopulation.

The safety of students includes, but is not limited to:

- Wearing facial coverings
- Maintaining appropriate social distancing
- Releasing students to the nurse or counselors
- Facilitating adherence to procedures during drills and/or active emergencies

Promoting an environment conducive to learning includes, but is not limited to:

- Supporting faculty in maintaining a respectful learning environment
- Encouraging student focus on the instruction and classroom activities
- Facilitating a safe progression into and out of the classroom

Q. On what basis has IMSA chosen to deploy portable ozone generators in the building?

A. Upon further study, IMSA has decided not to use the generators as a method for cleaning any spaces. Our protocol will be to continue the use of electrostatic devices, in conjunction with our primary treatment of CDC approved chemicals.

Q: If a student has symptoms of COVID, but tests negative, and does not have a fever, will parents still be required to take them home?

A: IMSA will follow the IDPH guidelines COVID-19 interim exclusion guidance and the IDPH guide for communicable disease in school, including this [decision tree](#). Other considerations may include risks of exposure, close contact to a positive case, compliance with social distancing, mask wearing, clinical symptoms. The Nurse and Chief Student Affairs Officer will make the final decision.

Q: Per the reopening plan, if a person tests positive, those who've had close contact are required to quarantine for 14 days. So if a student/RC falls ill, does that mean their "pod" now has to stay in their dorm rooms for two weeks? If that quarantine period happens to extend past the three-week session, will that quarantine be broken to send those students home?

A: A student who is a close contact to a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case will be required to stay home for 14 calendar days after last exposure to the COVID-19 case. If the student develops COVID-19 symptoms during this time, the student will be required to remain at home at least ten calendar days from onset of symptoms AND be fever free (without fever-reducing medication) for 24 hours AND have significant improvement of symptoms.

Q: How will remote students be included in the on-campus "IMSA experience" socially? Particularly the question for sophomores and seniors.

A: Residence Life educational programming will be in a hybrid format during repopulation to ensure students are still learning and developing with their wing community. Resident Counselors will host a combination of virtual, hybrid, and in-person events to keep students connected socially. Student Activities and Co-Curriculars will still take place virtually as there will be a number of students who participate in these activities from both cohorts. When students are on campus, they will be provided with socialization within their pods and we will be hosting large events outdoors.

Q: Can IMSA conduct a new survey of families to find out who will return to campus under the current plan? If students from our marginalized populations return at a far lower rate (as is happening in our local district) then what additional steps will be taken to ensure equity for those students?

A: The Opt In/Opt Out survey sent to all families provides the information needed for who is returning onsite or will continue virtual learning. Instruction, residential life, and support services will be tailored to meet the diverse, equitable learning needs of students whether the choice is to return onsite, or to remain in distance learning.

Q: Ventilation system updates in the main building seem to be addressed, but not in the dorms. How have/will those ventilation systems be updated for increased air circulation?

A: The wing common areas units use the maximum amount of outside airflow per their designs and the highest rated filters. The residential rooms have individual supply units in each of them. Upon repopulation the units will have their outside air dampers opened to full capacity, which will allow all outside air to be used in the rooms. The buildings also have central exhaust fans that run 24/7 tied into each room to allow for multiple air turnovers throughout the day.

Q: Why is repopulation taking so long to begin, April 8th is a long time from now?

A: On January 20, 2021, President Torres communicated with staff, including faculty, students and parents that he would continue to review the positivity rates and make the decision to return to campus if and when it was safe to do so. As part of that communication, he stated that once a decision had been made to return to campus, a 30-40 day window would be needed to enact the Repopulation Plan and prepare the campus for students. There are two major efforts that drive the timeframe including: our meal service vendor who requires a 30-40 day timeframe to hire staff, arrange for food delivery schedules; and additionally, the hiring of new IMSA staff and training to support the students.

Q: Is a student able to be in person for their cohort for less time than scheduled and move out early due to a prior commitment at home?

A: Cohorts are designed to serve students who opt-in for in-person learning for the duration of their cohort experience. IMSA will not prevent a parent/guardian from picking up their student before the scheduled move out date. However, we do ask that the family coordinates departure day/time with IMSA staff so we can make proper safety and learning arrangements. If the student departs campus, they will not be permitted to return.

Q: Is a student allowed to leave and return to campus each week to fulfil prior commitments/practices that are off campus?

A: Students should plan to return for the length of their cohort. Exceptions to this will be reviewed by President Torres. For students in Cohort One, requests for exception must be submitted no later than Wednesday, March 24, 2021. President Torres will communicate final decisions for Cohort One no later than Friday, March 26, 2021.

For students in Cohort Two, requests for exception must be submitted no later than Wednesday, April 28, 2021. President Torres will communicate final decisions for Cohort Two no later than Friday, April 30, 2021.

All requests must be submitted via: [On-Site Student Campus Request Form](#)

Q: We filled out the survey to opt in for onsite learning. Can my student still change to distance learning if they are uncomfortable going to school onsite at that time? Will there be any negative repercussions for changing their mind?

A: The Opt In/Out survey responses are being used to plan for in-person learning and make necessary arrangements to support students on and off campus simultaneously. If a student

“opts in” and then decides they would prefer “opt out” and continue in distance learning, IMSA will accommodate. However, a student who “opts out” will not be able to “opt in” after the February 26 deadline.

Q: Will IMSA be able to secure a vaccine for students?

A: No, IMSA is not able to secure COVID-19 vaccines for students.

Q: Will students have roommates in the dorms?

A: Students will be assigned single occupancy rooms. The only exceptions that will be considered are for same-gender siblings.

Q: What happens a student gets sick while at IMSA: has COVID symptoms, tests positive for COVID, is sick but not COVID related?

A: The [Health and Safety FAQ](#) provides our protocols for each of these scenarios.

Q: If a student tests positive for COVID, where will they be quarantined?

A: An isolation wing has been designated in one of the residence halls. Students who test positive for COVID-19 will be assigned a residence hall room in the isolation wing to stay in until a parent/guardian arrives to pick them up.

Q: What precautions are you taking for people who will be coming and leaving IMSA daily?

A: The LiveSafe App will be used for daily check-ins before the employee leaves home, or the student leaves the residence hall. Use of the app and a review of symptoms will be part of mandatory pre-re-population training for students and staff prior to return to campus. In addition, students' temperatures will be taken at the entrance/exit of the residence halls a minimum of twice a day. It will be required before leaving the hall for the main building in the morning and recommended to be repeated around dinner time, but required again by 7:00 pm check.

In addition to required daily check-ins, IMSA has partnered with the Illinois Department of Public Health, Kane County HealthDepartment, and Rush Copley Medical Center, to provide Abbott BinaxNOW rapid COVID-19 antigen testing on campus. Rapid testing will be conducted on staff, including faculty and students.

Q: Will kids be able to return home on the weekend?

A: No. Per the Repopulation Addendum, due to the brief cohort time frames, students will not be given an opportunity to travel home during the cohort. If students leave campus prior to a cohort's official end, they will not be allowed to return for in-person learning. The only exception is if there is a medical emergency, e.g. a student falls and hurts their arm and IMSA personnel transports the student to a hospital/doctor.

Q: How will COVID-19 tests be administered to students vs staff who are on campus?

A: IMSA has partnered with the Illinois Department of Public Health, Kane County Health Department, and Rush Copley Medical Center, to provide Abbott BinaxNOW rapid COVID-19 antigen testing on campus. Rapid testing will be conducted on staff, including faculty and students.

Q: If fewer kids elect to repopulate can/will you lottery some rooms, allowing kids to be at both sessions?

A: 74% of students have opted to return.

Q: If you are testing upon arrival, and kids can't leave, isn't that a bubble? Why can't everyone just go back for the two months. Maybe give an extended weekend early May and retest upon return.

A: The health and safety of our community is our highest priority. Our staff, including faculty, are coming and going each day and the repopulation plan ensures the safety of our students.

Q: Are students opting in to an in-person cohort able to leave for a doctor's appointment or another important personal appointment or family emergency off of campus?

A: Per the Repopulation Addendum, due to the brief cohort time frames, students will not be given an opportunity to travel home during the cohort. If students leave campus prior to a cohort's official end, they will not be allowed to return for in-person learning. The only exception is if there is a medical emergency, e.g. a student falls and hurts their arm and IMSA personnel transports the student to a hospital/doctor.

Q: Can a student opt to return home permanently at any point during their month on campus if they determine that they don't like it?

A: Yes. If students leave campus prior to a cohort's official end, they will not be allowed to return for in-person learning, but can continue distance learning.

Q: Will each student have their own room, without a roommate, if they chose to come back on campus?

A: Yes. So as to adhere to physical distancing health and safety recommendations, only one student will be assigned to a residence hall room.

Q: For senior students who return to campus, when will they be able to move off of campus before their graduation date?

A: The last day of in-person instruction is May 28 and seniors have the option to move out on Saturday, May 29. If a student does not move out on May 29, move out may occur the

afternoon of Friday, June 4, the morning of June 5, or the afternoon of June 5, 2021, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Q: How will students be served their meals on campus? Will they be pre-packaged with set items or will the students be able to go through a serving line to make their food plate like they did in the past? Will they be forced to eat all meals alone?

A: Per the Repopulation Plan Addendum, all students opting for in-person learning will have assigned meal times, including going through a serving line, for weekday lunch and dinner and weekend brunch and dinner. PowerSchool will be updated with this assigned meal schedule. Hot breakfast and grab-n-go style breakfast will be available to all students Monday - Friday.

Q: As a parent of a sophomore, I'm hoping a generic packing list will be given to families for some of the more unusual items that the kids will need. For example, I've been told that the kids need to bring a desk chair, a desk lamp, a floor

A: As prescribed on page 17 of the Repopulation Plan, students are encouraged to pack light in case a scenario presents itself that requires a quick move out. The only change to the packing list published is that IMSA is providing shower curtains.

Q: Seeking clarification around socialization/recreation. I see "students will be able to socialize in wing pods. Are there acceptable ways to socialize with students who are not in the wing pod like outdoors? In approved areas in the main building on evenings and weekends? Or, is pretty much all socialization limited to those in the student's wing pod? Will there be any way to request friends for wing pods?

A: While students are on campus, we want to ensure that you are staying active and are able to socialize with your peers. Because of that, students will see some outdoor activities and zones that are set up for use. There will be a large tent near the tennis courts for students to sit under and use for homework or socializing. As always, proper social distancing and mask wearing should be followed when participating in group outdoor activities. With open student spaces, a reservation may be needed if students want to do things as a larger group to ensure that the space is available. Students can hang out in general locations on the south end of the building as well as outside. Any student who opts in to come back this spring will be kept busy on the weekends. The indoor spaces that students will be able to use on the evenings and weekends are the Student Union, the main Gym, one of our Music Rooms, the Fitness Center, and the Multipurpose Room. Some of these locations may require signing up in advance such as the fitness center to allow for appropriate physical distancing. Gym equipment will be available for students to use but they can only be used indoors. Cleaning up afterwards is essential and students may be required to use antibacterial spray and wipe down any surface that has been touched.

Q: Will we be given a certain day that we will have to move in to eliminate everyone showing up all at once?

A: Each student returning to campus as a part of Cohort One or Two will receive a link that is associated with the hall they are assigned to reside in to sign up for move-in on April 5, 6, or 7 for Cohort One and May 8-9 for Cohort Two.

Q: As a parent, I have concerns with a negative test from three days prior to move-in being accepted vs. testing every one move-in day. Not sure the reasoning for this. Does that give a gap to the safety of the bubble as students that tested negative 3 days prior to move-in could actually have contracted the virus between the time of that test and move in day?

A: A three day window was the recommendation from our health partner, Rush Copley Medical Center. In addition to proof of a negative test prior campus arrival, rapid testing will be conducted on faculty, staff and students on a weekly basis.

Q: Can the kids that were in a sport either practice (like tennis) or condition (like soccer) so that the teams can bond and be on a better footing for next year (and closure for Seniors)?

A: IMSA will not sponsor athletic teams during Repopulation due to the low density format so athletic coaches will not be available to conduct training or conditioning sessions with IMSA athletes. We do encourage all students to engage in physical activity while on campus. Outdoor spaces such as the track, soccer field, baseball field, sand volleyball court, and basketball courts are available for students to use as well as our indoor gym. At this time, the tennis courts are not available.

Q: Do you anticipate timing challenges for testing, to and from halls, meal times and into and out of classrooms?

A: Students will be assigned meal times and designated COVID testing times to prevent timing challenges. Each student will be responsible for following their schedule to avoid timing challenges.

Q: If my Cohort 2 student is taking the SAT on May 8, can we request a move-in time that does not conflict?

A: All students/families will receive a link to select their move-in date/time on a first come, first served basis so you will be able to select a time that works best for your family.

Q: Will the Makerspace and/or IN2 be open?

A: By appointment only.

Q: When will we see results of the return numbers for the April 8 reopening, and will they be broken down by demographics?

A: The results are posted on the IMSA website on the COVID-19 webpage.

Q: What happens at the end of the cohort? What will students do/go at the end of the cohort?

A: At the conclusion of a cohort, students will return home to engage in distance learning for the remainder of the academic year. Senior students, who have opted for in-person learning, will be allowed to stay until graduation.

Q: Will there be any other restrictions regarding running laps around campus?

A: Students who would like to run on the track or on campus will not be required to have adult supervision and will be required to wear masks.

Q: Will the students have access to do laundry while they are there on campus for their cohort?

A: Yes, students will have access to do laundry in their residence halls. Students will use a sign-up process to utilize the laundry spaces to ensure physical distancing. Money can be added to a laundry card that will be supplied at move-in, by going to the laundry card machine in the main building.

Q: Have the sophomores been given any kind of directions yet? As a parent I have not heard anything more.

A: Sophomore students and their parents/guardians are receiving weekly emails detailing important information. Additionally, the Repopulation Orientation Canvas course was created to provide key information to families. If you have other questions, please consider attending the Live Session with IMSA staff on Wednesday, March 24 at 8:00 pm via Zoom.

Q: Why are Sophomores not allowed to participate in Track?

A: IMSA can enter a limited number of students into State Series competitions. As a result, junior and senior students who have competed for IMSA in the past will be given priority for State Series competitions this year, while IMSA is not fielding any athletic teams.

Q: Will any indoor recreation be an option, such as ping pong darts, basketball, swimming?

A: The indoor recreation spaces that students will be able to use on the evenings and weekends are the Student Union, the main Gym, one of our Music Rooms, the Fitness Center, and the Multipurpose Room. Some of these locations may require signing up in advance such as the fitness center to allow for appropriate physical distancing. Gym equipment will be available for students to use but they can only be used indoors. Basketball and ping pong will be available.

Cleaning up afterwards is essential and students may be required to use antibacterial spray and wipe down any surface that has been touched. The swimming pool will remain closed.

Q: Not sure the reason for the 24-hour internet access? It appears that there may be concerns of enough on campus bandwidth during the day to accommodate all faculty, staff and student access/internet needs to complete work? Is there anticipation that students might need to be up all odd hours to study and or complete assigned work, or access printers if needed?

A: During a normal year with all students and staff on campus we use between 40% to 50% of our available bandwidth. As not all staff and students are returning at one time we expect bandwidth usage to be a bit less or stay roughly the same. ITS will continue to monitor the bandwidth graphs closely during the two cohort groups time on campus. The Principal's Office expectation is that instruction and assessment will be done to best support the students academically, physically and emotionally.

Q: Will there be access to the main building restrooms and how might that work in terms of physically spacing and distancing?

A: Yes, there will be access to the restrooms in the main building. All individuals on-site are required to follow all health and safety protocols including, but not limited to physical distancing, mask wearing, and hand washing. All restrooms are being cleaned and sanitized by our facilities team in accordance with health and safety standards.

Q: How will you know the students are self quarantined after taking the covid test?

A: In the Repopulation plan, students were asked to quarantine before arriving on campus. All families returning on-site are required to sign the Titan Pact, which is in agreement to adhere to expectations and standards in the Repopulation plan.

Q: If students feel uncomfortable eating in the cafeteria, may they bring food from the cafeteria into their dorm rooms? Also, may they bring snacks from home and keep that food in their dorm room?

A: Food from the cafeteria must be eaten in the dining room. Grab 'n' Go breakfast items are the only exception, and these items can either be eaten in a designated area or brought back to the residence hall and eaten in their room. Students are permitted to bring snacks from home and keep them in their residence hall room and limited cooking appliances are available to be checked out from the RC office. If a student is uncomfortable eating in the cafeteria, please contact the Student Life Office so we can ensure there is a plan that will allow the student to eat.

Q: What will typical evenings (3:00 pm - 11:00 pm) look like, 1 days/Saturday/Sundays (8:00 am - 11:00 pm) for those on campus?

A: While students are on campus, we want to ensure that they are staying active and are able to socialize with their peers. Because of that, students will see some outdoor activities and zones that are set up for use. There will be a large tent near the tennis courts for students to sit under and use for homework or socializing. As always, proper physical distancing and mask wearing should be followed when participating in group outdoor activities.

With open student spaces, a reservation may be needed if students want to do things as a larger group to ensure that the space is available. Students can hang out in general locations on the south end of the building as well as outside. Any student who opts in to come back this spring will be kept busy on the weekends.

The indoor spaces that students will be able to use on the evenings and weekends are the Student Union, the main Gym, one of our Music Rooms, the Fitness Center, and the Multipurpose Room. Some of these locations may require signing up in advance such as the fitness center to allow for appropriate physical distancing. Gym equipment will be available for students to use but they can only be used indoors. Cleaning up afterwards is essential and students may be required to use antibacterial spray and wipe down any surface that has been touched.

Q: What will senior weeks from prom to the banquet be like this year? Will you hold activities on campus that cater to those on campus or will you NOT so no one feels left out? Virtual options can't replace in-person for proms and parties.

A: A Senior Week is currently being planned for the week leading up to Graduation and will include several in-person activities for Cohort 2 seniors and virtual events for seniors who opted out. A senior meeting will be held after Spring Break to reveal the schedule of events, though we can confirm that Prom and Senior Banquet will take place during Senior Week.

Q: Will students be in the same wing as their roommate? If not, when will we hear?

A: Some, not all, students will be in the same wing as their roommate. Housing assignments were uploaded into PowerSchool on March 15, 2021, so students can communicate with one another individually about their housing assignment.

Q: Will the juniors all be eating together? I don't want to be eating with only sophomores that I don't know. How many of us can sit at a table?

A: Assigned meal times will be uploaded into students' PowerSchool schedules. The lunch schedule takes a number of things into account, among them a student's academic schedule and COVID-19 testing schedule. Weekday dinner schedules and weekend brunch and dinner schedules will be based on the hall that a student lives in. Only two students will be allowed per table.

Q: Why is "5-10 washable masks" listed as important things to bring to campus? Cloth masks have no protection on viruses. Can students bring in those disposable ones instead?

A: Students are required to wear a face mask anytime they are outside of their residence hall room, and a new or clean mask should be worn daily. Students should wear a clean washable mask or a new disposable mask each day.

Q: By what process will these students who are granted permission to leave and come back be safely reintegrated to the campus community upon their return?

A: All students will be expected to follow all health and safety protocols while off campus. Students will need to check in with their RC prior to departing campus and immediately upon returning to campus. Prior to returning to IMSA, Students will need to check in on the LiveSafe App, and will also get your temperature checked upon entry. In addition, by recommendation from our health partner Rush Copley Medical:

- If they return during health office hours: Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 4:00 pm, they will need to report directly to the health office for testing.

If they return outside health office hours, they will quarantine in their room until they are tested during regular hours in the health office.

- If a student leaves campus for less than 48 hours they can continue the regular testing schedule.
- If they are off campus for more than 48 hours, they will need to be tested.