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.

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 fulfill 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 p.m. 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.