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From: Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders and Secretary of Education Jim Peyser
To: Presidents of Institutions of Higher Education and Boarding Schools
Date: December 24, 2020
Subject: Return to Campus Guidance for January

As you may know, the Governor announced temporary capacity and gathering limits to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth. These measures will go into effect on Saturday, December 26, and will remain in effect until noon on January 10, 2021, or later depending upon the public health data. You can find a summary of the restrictions [here](#) and the emergency order [here](#).

All higher education institutions and boarding schools should minimize the presence of staff and faculty on their campuses in keeping with these new restrictions, and follow all continuing mandatory safety standards for workplaces, and all other applicable aspects of the [Higher Education COVID-19 Control Plan](#).

All institutions of higher education with residential students, as well as all boarding schools, should **refrain from bringing any students back to campus until Monday, January 18, including gradual and scheduled move-ins over the weekend of January 16-17, if necessary.**

This does not apply to students who are currently residing on campus, or to students who had planned to come back before January 18 and have no other housing option for that time period. This would also not apply to students in graduate clinical programs and other professional healthcare programs who are following more stringent COVID-19 protocols than the general student population.

Institutions should notify their local board of health on their plans.

We are grateful for all of the thoughtfulness and care that higher education institutions and boarding schools have put into your COVID-19 response efforts. Your continued diligence is vital to minimizing the risk of COVID-19 to your students, staff, faculty, and the surrounding community.

Thank you and best wishes for a safe and healthy new year.