

PANDEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Since March 2020, the Pandemic Planning Committee (PPC) has met at least monthly to discern recommendations for Iliff's COVID-19 responses. The word "responses" has been chosen over "response" because multiple layers of responses have been required as the guidelines from scientists, public health and government officials have changed throughout the pandemic. One of the many challenges has been developing a cogent response when the guidelines between various officials have often been vague and divergent. Because Iliff has a student body residing across the country who have an expectation of learning in Denver for Gathering Days, in addition to monitoring federal and Colorado guidelines, the PPC has been monitoring the unique guidelines of each state.

Interdependent Guiding Principles:

We respect the **science** that contributes to the **health, safety** and **education** of our students, the Iliff community as a whole, and the world. Every PPC recommendation is based on consideration and assessment of the interdependent guiding principles directly related to science, education, health and safety.

- **Science** - We recognize the science is often politicized but we have continued to consult the following scientific resources, public healthcare professionals, and metrics in the concert with our other interdependent guiding principles:
 - *Resources*
 - World Health Organization
 - CDC
 - Colorado Department of Health & Environment (CDPHE)
 - Denver County
 - *Metrics*
 - CDC COVID County Check (Substantial and high rates of transmission have resulted in stricter standards regarding mask wearing and distancing.)
 - 7-day positivity rates
 - Vaccination Rates for Colorado and the USA
- **Education** - Providing a viable and meaningful path towards graduation in the education of our students constantly remains at the forefront of the minds of members of the PPC. While we know that social distancing and masking practices are not ideal in that they often present curricular, pedagogical, and mental health challenges, we recognize the skill and professionalism of our faculty and staff in seeking to address all of our students' needs in a pandemic atmosphere.
- **Health and Safety** - At the same time we are looking for the best ways to educate our students, the PPC also prioritizes the health and safety of our students and the Iliff community because we know that people do not learn well in places where they do not feel safe. Accordingly, the PPC has recommended the implementation of health precautions and safety protocols that are appropriate for Iliff. To that end, 100% of faculty and staff are fully vaccinated.

Composition of the Committee:

Members of the committee were chosen based on their roles in and understanding of the Iliff community. Each person who agreed to serve on the committee did so knowing that they would be working in areas beyond their designated job position description. The following description of committee members provides insight into a few of their many contributions to developing Iliff's comprehensive COVID-19 responses.

- **Erin Christensen** - Grants Program Director

In addition to her extensive knowledge of available grants, Erin has a passion for and experience in working with employee engagement, prospective students, the current student body, and alumni. These insights have proved invaluable to PPC discussions leading to its recommendations.

- **Cathie Kelsey** - Dean of the Chapel and Spiritual Formation, Gerald L. Schlessman Professor in Methodist Studies

As a person who continues to teach courses and facilitate student engagement, Cathie has been in conversation with both her faculty colleagues and Iliff's students as she helps the committee support best pedagogical practices while navigating the challenges presented by COVID-19.

- **Andy Rieder** – Director of Facilities Management

In addition to advising on Iliff's building ventilation, Andy has helped to devise appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and safe distancing protocols. He has been influential in the PPC's drafting recommendations for Iliff's building protocols.

- **Caran Ware Joseph** – Chief Operating Officer, Acting Human Resources Director and Title IX Administrator

Caran has kept the committee apprised of the various public health and official guidelines and the potential operational and legal implications associated with the myriad of possible responses.

- **Jason Warr** – VP of Business and Acting Campus Safety Coordinator

Jason's unique area of contribution is in consulting on the availability of financial resources for COVID responses and assessing the business impacts for decisions.

- **Thomas V. Wolfe** – President and Chief Executive Officer

Tom has kept the PPC's focus on overall organizational impacts of its recommendations. This lens includes using his expertise in student services and crisis management.

- **Soon Beng Yeap** - Chief Advocacy & Communications Officer

Soon Beng has posted continual communication regarding Iiff's COVID-19 responses on our website and in our community announcements. He also monitors developments on the pandemic in the state, country, and world.

Process

The PPC recommendations have been submitted to the senior leadership team for review and further discussion. Responses are only adopted and announced after consulting with and obtaining approval from the senior leadership team.