Campus Recreation Response to Covid-19

On April 1-3, NIRSA conducted a survey of campus recreation department lead staff related to the disruption of higher education caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Survey Overview
Given the ongoing, and rapid-changing nature of how colleges and universities are responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, NIRSA determined there was a need to assess the variation of responses occurring on campuses across the Association.

Survey was delivered electronically to 795 institutions and 447 individual schools responded (56% response rate). 98% of respondents completed all of the survey questions. All data are reported in aggregate.

Survey Responses by NIRSA Region

Survey Responses by Institutional Enrollment

Survey Responses by Institutional Sector

What areas are of concern to you during your facility closure? Check all that apply.

83% How to engage students while facilities are closed.
62% How to engage staff that are working from home.
56% Membership and other student fee reimbursement decisions and processes.
49% Infection risk mitigation when facilities reopen.
15% Recreation facility being converted to medical facility or other response infrastructure.
3% No concerns.

Are recreation student employees being paid during any facility closures?

Responding 4-year public sector institutions are paying student staff more frequently than private sector equivalents.

Larger institutions are more frequently paying student staff
Is your institution under a “work from home” order?

- **55%** Yes, but some staff are allowed on campus to operate certain facilities.
- **44%** Yes, all staff are working from home.
- **1%** No, all staff remain on campus.

Have all recreational facilities closed at your institution?

- **57%** Yes, but the closure is indefinite with no scheduled re-opening.
- **40%** Yes, all facilities are closed for the remainder of the academic year.
- **2%** Yes, but facilities will re-open before the end of the academic year.
- **2%** No, some or all facilities remain open.

Most responding institutions have closed facilities indefinitely or for the rest of the academic year:

- **Region I (n=99)**
  - Yes, but the closure is indefinite with no scheduled re-opening: 47%
  - Yes, all facilities are closed for the remainder of the academic year: 52%
- **Region II (n=91)**
  - Yes, but the closure is indefinite with no scheduled re-opening: 45%
  - Yes, all facilities are closed for the remainder of the academic year: 51%
- **Region III (n=57)**
  - Yes, but the closure is indefinite with no scheduled re-opening: 68%
  - Yes, all facilities are closed for the remainder of the academic year: 30%
- **Region IV (n=70)**
  - Yes, but the closure is indefinite with no scheduled re-opening: 70%
  - Yes, all facilities are closed for the remainder of the academic year: 27%
- **Region V (n=36)**
  - Yes, but the closure is indefinite with no scheduled re-opening: 64%
  - Yes, all facilities are closed for the remainder of the academic year: 33%
- **Region VI (n=59)**
  - Yes, but the closure is indefinite with no scheduled re-opening: 54%
  - Yes, all facilities are closed for the remainder of the academic year: 39%
- **Canada (n=25)**
  - Yes, but the closure is indefinite with no scheduled re-opening: 72%
  - Yes, all facilities are closed for the remainder of the academic year: 28%

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For more information about this survey or the data supporting it, please reach out to Ruben Guzman, NIRSA Research Coordinator at research@nirsa.org.