I. Recommendation and Metrics

The Uni High Health and Safety Task Force would like to make multiple recommendations and outline the metrics used to make that guidance. We suggest that Uni continues with remote learning through the third quarter. This is based on CUPHD’s recommendation that schools stay remote until January 5 and CUPHD modeling that anticipates a surge in cases at the end of January with the beginning of the University’s spring semester. We will begin discussing a return to limited indoor Enrichment Activities (see section III) once the region moves back into Tier 2 mitigation. We will offer Supplemental After-School Activities (see section IV) when the following metrics are met per CUPHD recommendation. These metrics are:

i. Daily, new cases in the county consistently remain below 10 for 2–4 weeks

ii. County, seven-day test positivity rate below 5%
The next section provides an overview of November and December 2020 case levels in Champaign County and visualizes the rates necessary for in-person learning.

II. Champaign County COVID Case Levels Necessary for In-Person Learning

Figure 1 compares Champaign County’s daily case counts (in blue) to the threshold for returning to in-person learning (in orange)—case counts below 10 for 2–4 weeks. Figure 2 compares the daily (December 5) and weekly (November 29–December 5) test positivity rate for Region 6 and Champaign County to the positivity threshold for returning to in-person learning—5% for at least 7 days. Data for Figures 1 and 2 were obtained from the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District.

Fig. 1: Champaign County’s daily case counts (blue) compared to threshold for in-person learning (orange)
Fig. 2: Daily (December 5) and weekly (November 29–December 5) test positivity rate for Region 6 compared to in-person threshold

III. Enrichment Activity Definition and Process

Once Champaign County leaves Tier 3 and returns to Tier 2 Mitigations, Uni will be able to resume Enrichment Activities. Enrichment Activities are Uni events taking place in-person during Phase 3 and 4 of IDPH’s Restore Illinois. Ideally, these activities comprise a pedagogical experience or volunteer work that cannot be conducted over Zoom or another online learning platform. After carefully considering all of the Essential Health and Safety Criteria listed in the Enrichment Activity Form, teachers or students with faculty sponsors can apply to host an

1 A link can also be found on Uni’s homepage listed under “Enrichment Activity Application.”
activity. The Health and Safety Task Force reviews the forms the Monday after they are submitted in conjunction with the administration and provides the applicant with an answer the following Wednesday. All participants are required to have parental permission for participation. The *Enrichment Activity Permission Form* can be found on Uni’s homepage and tailored to the particular event.

IV. Supplemental After-School Activities Definition and Plan

As vaccinations are implemented and active COVID case numbers in Champaign County decrease, we anticipate conditions allowing for *Supplemental After-School Activities*. *Supplemental After-School Activities* are in-person activities or classes that take place over a longer period of time. Teachers or students with faculty sponsors are invited to apply to host a class or activity during the following time slots:

1. M, T, TH, F from 3 to 4 pm for one week

2. M, T, TH, F from 4:10 to 5:10 pm for one week

Applicants are able to request a time slot using the same *Enrichment Activity* procedure (see section III). Teachers are also encouraged to use the 3–4 pm time slot to teach one of their regular lessons in lieu of that day’s earlier online lesson. Should teachers intend on doing this, they must be cognizant that not all students will be able to attend and synchronous

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2 Preference will be given to teachers wishing to hold labs, art projects, etc. during the first time slot.
arrangements should be provided. Students and parents would also need to know well in advance for planning purposes.

V. Final Remarks

Throughout the unexpected challenges of 2020 the Uni community has shown resilience, flexibility and solidarity. There is much optimism as we look toward the 2021–2022 school year due to the anticipated COVID-19 vaccine and cooperation of social distancing and mask compliance. With these interventions, our hope is that test positivity rates will dramatically decrease as we head into the summer and therefore transition into Restore Illinois Phase 5. This would finally allow us back to in-person school-wide learning in the fall. We are hopeful that the transition to normalcy is coming soon and are grateful for the continued support and cooperation from our great community.

Health and Safety Task Force, Dec. 12, 2020