Alcohol Prevention and COVID-19 Prevention
Challenges and Opportunities for Universities

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• Asking Questions
The audio is by default through your computer speakers. If you would like to call in, click "Audio Setting".

Q&A: Your questions will be submitted to the staff and answered at the end of the webinar. Any questions that are not addressed during the webinar will be shared via email along with the recording of the webinar.

• Membership
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First Things First…

- Are you responsible for AOD Prevention?
- Are you responsible for COVID-19 Prevention?
- Both?
- If you are responsible for one of the above, have you talked with your counterpart for the other?

COVID-19

What we know about COVID-19 Prevention: Best Practices

- Hand washing and use of sanitizer
- Face masks
- Social distancing (stay at home)
- Physical distancing (six-foot rule)
- No large events (less than 10 people)
- Outside is better
What We Know About COVID-19 and Drinking

- From the scientific literature, not much. Lots of predictions about increased AUDs etc.
- From media, alcohol sales increased dramatically during lockdown, alcohol sales restrictions eased in many places, alcohol sales distribution methods (home delivery) increased.
- Bars closed, and in many places, might not reopen.
- Virtual happy hours became a “thing”

Main Concerns: COVID-19, College Students, and Universities

- “Super Spreaders”
- Disruptions in AY
- Delay in time to degree and increased loan debt
- Massive economic disruptions to universities including closings

What Colleges are Doing
Higher Education Responds

- COVID-19 related modifications that went into effect in the Spring 2020 semester/quarter at most universities will still be in effect at some universities to varying degrees in fall 2020.
- Most universities will be largely face-to-face with some COVID-19 prevention measures in place.
- Many universities have put on campus COVID-19 prevention policies into effect with NO consideration of alcohol use among students.

Plan for Fall 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hybrid</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Sure</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Person</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some Common Campus COVID-19 Responses

- Rotating “live” sections (online/in person hybrid)
- Limiting the number of students per square foot to physical distance
- Mandatory facemasks
- More on-line offerings
- Accommodations for at-risk groups
- Enhanced cleaning/sanitation
- Early start and end dates
- Health monitoring

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education
How Will Students Comply to COVID-19 Prevention Efforts?

What We Know About COVID-19 Preventive Best Practice Compliance

- No real data on college students vs general population on compliance
- Liberals are more likely than conservatives to comply with prevention guidelines (van Holmes et al., 2020)
- States varied widely in compliance, timing, etc.

Using the College Alcohol/Health Literature to Predict Student Compliance to Best Practices

- Only 25% of college students use condoms regularly.
- Lowest adherence for condom use, heavy drinking males (Cetin et al., 2009).
- Members of the Greek system most likely to be heavier drinkers and hold politically conservative views (Hevel et al., 2015).
How Might Drinking Contexts Change?

Potential Shift to Smaller Parties?

- One plausible scenario in some environments is a shift away from large parties and bar attendance to smaller parties.

- Implications:
  - BYOB events tend to be “wet”
  - Less regulation of alcohol at private events
  - Possible reduction in DUI
  - Better chance of contact tracing

- Prevention focus:
  - Party patrols
  - Social host ordinances
  - Responsible host training (COVID-19 and alcohol)
Potential Shift to Lower Bar Capacity

- Some locations have greatly reduced the capacity of bars to operate.
- Implications:
  - Decreased capacity may lead to some bars closing and others might look for new business models.
  - Students are highly sensitive to price.
  - DUI might increase due to reduced ride share use and availability.
- Prevention Focus:
  - RBS

If You are On a Campus that is Doing Nothing for COVID-19

- Business as Usual:
  - Comprehensive programs (HEC)
  - College AIM, etc.
  - Monitor drinking; COVID-19 and last semester might have shifted behavior in important ways.

COVID-19 and Alcohol Problem Prevention

- Campus adopts and encourages best practices (for both)
- Specifically link COVID-19 prevention efforts to drinking as a threat.
- Ban large parties and enforce policy
- Engage with fraternities and think harm reduction [e.g., traceable events, partnerships, etc.]
- Develop social host materials that combine COVID-19 prevention with responsible alcohol service.
Continued:

- Think locally/regionally... If your campus is on line and your neighboring campus across town is “business as usual” important to consider.
- Create small event/virtual opportunities (outside if possible)
- On campuses that are mostly online, monitor drinking and see if there are opportunities related to positive changes that might be sustained (e.g., Zoom and “tippling”).
- See if changes in service practices carry over from COVID-19 (i.e., “to go” alcohol) and pose new risks. Act accordingly.

Social Justice?

- The combined civil unrest and COVID-19 epidemic provide a potential watershed moment for young adults.
- Issues of health disparities, ageism and the like are part of the COVID-19 narrative. Their use of alcohol coupled with COVID-19 mitigation might be a viable narrative.
- Given the protests, support for BLM, calls for political reform, etc., students might be ready to become more socially responsible and engaged.

Summary

- Entering a period of extreme uncertainty and variation.
- Great need for data collection, sharing experiences, and collaboration.
Alcohol and Hazing: Examining the Intersections and Considering Implications for Campus Prevention

June 24th at 2:00 p.m. ET

Elizabeth Allen, PhD
Professor and Program Coordinator of the Higher Education Graduate Program
The University of Maine
Register: https://go.osu.edu/hazingwebinar

Register Today for the 2020 Virtual National Meeting

August 3 – 6, 2020 from 11:00 – 4:30 p.m. ET
Register: https://go.osu.edu/nmreg

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