

Student Comprehension Worksheet

Directions: Read the introduction to the online *Science News* article "[How 5 universities tried to handle COVID-19 on campus](#)," which explores five universities' strategies for monitoring and stemming the spread of the coronavirus on campuses, and answer the following questions. A version of the story, "COVID-19 on campus," appears in the February 27, 2021 issue of *Science News*.

1. What factors make college campuses seem like risky places to be during the coronavirus pandemic?
2. What evidence supports the claim that in-person instruction on college campuses may contribute to the spread of COVID-19? What is the source of this evidence?
3. Examine the graph titled "COVID-19 cases at five U.S. universities, fall 2020." What five universities are represented on the graph? Define the x- and y-axes and describe one trend the graph shows.
4. What types of testing did the universities provide to students?
5. What were some similarities and differences among the universities' types of testing strategies? Explain how each type of testing impacted the university's strategy.
6. Computational geneticist Pardis Sabeti says that colleges are high risk, but also are places of innovation. Give an example of how universities have innovated during the pandemic.
7. What advice does Pardis Sabeti have for universities that are open for in-person learning?

8. Are the testing strategies used by the five universities profiled in the *Science News* article representative of how all colleges and universities across the United States have handled the pandemic? Explain.