

### Student Discussion Worksheet

**Directions:** Read the introduction of the online *Science News* article "[How 5 universities tried to handle COVID-19 on campus](#)," and choose one of the universities profiled in the article to explore. Use the profile and the associated graphs to answer the first set of questions. Then, partner with a classmate who chose a different university and discuss and answer the remaining questions. A version of the story, "COVID-19 on campus," appears in the February 27, 2021 issue of *Science News*.

#### Choose a campus

Answer the following questions for one of the universities profiled in the *Science News* article.

1. What university did you choose and how many students live on its campus?
2. What kind of testing did the university provide at the start of the fall semester? What were the requirements around testing?
3. What other safety measures did the university put in place?
4. When did the university see the largest spike in cases? Why did the spike occur? Did the school change its testing strategies after that spike? If so, how? Be sure to look at both graphs when answering the question.
5. Did the university include any unique approaches to its testing plan? Explain.
6. Compare trends in data from new daily cases and new daily tests. Name a point where the two graphs had similar trends and one where the trends differed. Be sure to include the quantitative data and units associated with each point.
7. How might trends in the graph of new daily cases relate to trends in the graph of new daily tests?

8. What are the university's plans for the spring semester? How do the plans differ from the fall semester plans?

### **Compare approaches**

Before answering the following questions, briefly review your answers to the previous set of questions with your partner.

1. How are the campuses of the two schools similar and different? Consider population size, location, and other factors in your answer.

2. Compare the graphs of new daily cases for your chosen university and your partner's chosen university. How are the trends in data of the two schools similar or different? How did major events affect the trends?

3. Which school's approach to managing COVID-19 on campus was more successful? Explain using evidence from the article.

### **Reflect on your experience**

Before answering the following questions, discuss with your partner any safety measures that your own school has used during the pandemic.

1. Brainstorm similarities and differences that exist between a college campus and your high school environment.

2. Is there a strategy you learned from one or both of the universities that you think would be beneficial for your school? Why or why not? Be sure to consider the factors required to implement the strategy.

**Possible extension**

Imagine you're writing an article on how high schools have managed the COVID-19 pandemic. Write a profile of your school from August 2020 to December 2020 following the template from the article, which is provided below.

Students:

Testing:

Safety measures:

Spring semester plans:

