



# WAYMAKER INSTITUTE FALL 2020 COVID-19 MITIGATION PLAN

## INTRODUCTION

The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic has significantly disrupted multiple facets of American life and sectors of the American economy. Higher education is not immune to this disruption. Thus, this document lays out the rational and mitigation plan for Waymaker Institute to resume in-person classes on Monday, August 3, 2020 for the Fall semester despite the potential for a continued outbreak.

## RATIONAL FOR RESUMING IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

Waymaker Institute will resume in-person instruction based on the following considerations:

- Individuals under the age of 25 who do not have underlying health conditions have very small risks of COVID-19 death or requiring critical care.<sup>1</sup>
- Of the approximately 263,000 people in the Central Virginia Health District, there have been less than 350 reported cases of COVID-19. (Approximately .001% of the total population).<sup>2</sup>
- Waymaker Institute's student population is small enough (>10 individuals) that in-person instruction can resume even under current CDC and VA guidelines.
- It is impossible to eliminate 100% of all risk of infection to our student population, and to wait until we are "certain" requires a suspension of normal operations that is detrimental to the educational environment and experience of our students.
- It is a fundamental conviction of Waymaker Institute that life is full of inevitable risks. High character and high capacity leadership demands a prudent and nuanced response to risk that both reasonably mitigates

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.05.20054361v1.full.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.newsadvance.com/news/local/virginias-confirmed-covid-19-cases-rise-to-13-794/article\\_f7143eb9-6ca9-55e9-bc7e-43134f49dc61.html](https://www.newsadvance.com/news/local/virginias-confirmed-covid-19-cases-rise-to-13-794/article_f7143eb9-6ca9-55e9-bc7e-43134f49dc61.html)



negative outcomes **and** enables mission accomplishment. To postpone or provide substandard education for the next generation of leaders in the local church due to imprudent caution and fear is a direct contradiction of the core values of Waymaker Institute.

## MITIGATION

While Waymaker Institute will resume in-person instruction in Fall 2020, the following mitigation protocols will be implemented to reduce the risk of COVID-19:

- Waymaker Institute will implement strict cleaning and disinfecting protocols for all Waymaker Institute classrooms and facilities.
- Waymaker Institute students, faculty, and staff will be encouraged to remain home if they feel sick or believe they have been exposed to COVID-19, and Waymaker Institute will provide opportunities for them to participate in classroom activities through electronic means.
- Waymaker Institute will allow but not mandate students, faculty, and staff to wear PPE such as masks and gloves. (See footnote for why mask use is not mandatory at Waymaker Institute).<sup>3</sup>
- Waymaker Institute will ask but not require students, faculty, and staff to refrain from traveling outside the Central Virginia area for the duration of each semester.
- Waymaker Institute will ask but not require students, faculty, and staff to minimize and/or refrain from contact with at-risk populations for the duration of the semester, and for two weeks after the semester ends. (See footnote for a definition of at-risk populations).<sup>4</sup>
- Waymaker Institute will make reasonable accommodation for students who are at risk to participate in student life.

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<sup>3</sup><https://arstechnica.com/science/2020/04/should-you-wear-a-face-mask-heres-all-the-data-we-have/>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>