What is BYU's COVID-19 testing plan for Fall Semester?

BYU will take a more laissez-faire approach to COVID-19 testing this Fall Semester than some other colleges and universities.

BYU spokeswoman Carri Jenkins said the university will not require students, faculty or staff to be tested to return in order to return to campus or to perform any work-related tasks required to enter the campus.

Instead, “students, faculty and staff should perform daily symptom checks, get tested for COVID-19 if symptomatic, self-report test results and follow isolation or quarantine instructions,” Jenkins said.

BYU’s testing plan, according to Jenkins, requires the testing of students and employees within their broad categories: symptomatic individuals, those who have had close contact with a known COVID case, risk-based evaluations and those who have had close contact with someone who has known COVID symptoms or have been exposed to someone who has known COVID symptoms, have COVID symptoms, have been advised to be tested — such as they have a referral from a health professional — is entitled to exhibit symptoms but are not required to be tested before they can move in.

Students — 4,990 uninfected and 10 who were infected after the start of the semester or to conduct periodic testing.

The University of Utah, however, required all students living on campus to be tested before they can move in. Students leaving off-campus, staff and faculty are asked to take a test if they exhibit symptoms or are not required to do so — a policy most other universities have adopted along with a self-reporting form for those who have tested positive.

BYU and Dixie State will cover the cost of tests for all students and employees in Utah. Anyone with health insurance who has a medical reason to be tested — such as they have COVID symptoms, have been in close contact with someone who has the virus, or have a referral from a health professional — is entitled to a COVID test funded by the Federal Pandemic Response Act.

A recent study conducted by researchers at Harvard and Yale suggests the low-intensity testing plans adopted by Utah universities may not be sufficient to contain an outbreak and that there was “significant undercounting in this modeling study under which symptom-based testing frequency would be sufficient to contain an outbreak.”

Researchers found “symptomatic screening appears to be sufficient to contain an outbreak” and that there was “significant undercounting in this modeling study under which symptom-based testing frequency would be sufficient to contain an outbreak.”

The Provo City Council voted in a meeting Thursday, Aug. 27, to override Mayor Kaufusi’s veto of the ordinance to pass a mask mandate.

Kaufusi vetoed the ordinance Thursday.

Provo City Chair George Handley emphasized that the difference in opinion has not changed the relationship between the council and the mayor.

“I want to make it clear to the public that this is not a rift in the leadership,” he said.

“We know and trust and respect each other, and so did the other night, we are united in our desire to protect and promote the health and safety of all the citizens of Provo during the pandemic.”

The ordinance requires individuals to wear face masks in public places where social distancing is not possible, as well as at small events with more than 50 people — whether or not social distancing is possible — and at outdoor public gatherings in places where social distancing is not possible.

Additionally, organizers of public gatherings of more than 50 individuals are required to provide “clear public notice” at public entrances of those requirements, and all attendees must wear face coverings.

Variations of the ordinance will be civil infractions. Individuals found to be in violation will be fined $50 and organizers of large events will be required to provide masks and provide notices at public entrances. Violators will be fined $500.

The Provo City Council voted a number of exemptions to the ordinance, including children under 5 years old and those who have health reasons that prevent them from wearing masks that prevent them from wearing masks.

Handley emphasized his disapproval of a change in ordinance that has been directed toward Kaysville and the City Council and called upon Provo citizens to be responsible during this time.

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BYU announces additional Fall Semester safety measures

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BYU announced updated safety measures for Fall Semester in an email Aug. 17. These measures include a mandated safety training video, a symptom-tracking app, and COVID-testing.

All students, staff and faculty are required to take the “Welcome Back to the Y” safety training, which includes an informational video and a short quiz, before returning to campus on Aug. 31. Those who fail to complete the training by that date will lose access to mythU services.

“As our return to campus to succeed, we all need to do our part,” President Kevin J. Worthen said in the training video. The video encourages symptomatic and high-risk individuals, as well as those they live with, not to come to campus. It also reminds students and employees of face masks, social distancing and symptom tracking requirements.

New US virus cases fall as masks gain favor but testing lags

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — The number of Americans newly diagnosed with the coronavirus is falling — a development experts say most likely reflects more mask-wearing but also insufficient testing — but as the disease continues to claim nearly 1,000 lives in the U.S. each day.

About 64,000 new cases are being reported daily across the country, down 21% from early August, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. While the U.S., India and Brazil still have the highest numbers of new cases in the world, the downward trend is encouraging.

“It’s profoundly hopeful news,” and Dr. Monica Gandhi, an infectious disease expert at the University of California, San Francisco, who makes the American_PACKET’s growing understandings of the virus more widespread.

Quarantines, closures: Confusion reigns as schools reopen

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Schools in at least 10 states had students and staff test positive for the virus since they began opening. The outbreaks have occurred in a variety of school settings: marching bands, high school football teams, elementary classrooms, high schools.

A Colorado high school shut down for two weeks after two students tested positive. Football teams in Utah canceled practices and games after several players came down with the virus.

WHO survey finds virus disrupts health services

GENEVA. — The U.S. health agency says a new survey found that 90% of countries that responded reported fallout from COVID-19 on the provision of other health care services like immunization, family planning services, and cancer and cardiovascular disease diagnosis and treatment.

The World Health Organization says 85 countries responded to the survey aimed at assessing the impact of the coronavirus outbreak on essential health services. The countries surveyed included high-income countries.

Zoom glitches, briefly grinding US schools to a halt

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Teachers and parents got a brief glimpse of a new kind of pandemic-era nightmare: Mondays when Zoom — the video-conferencing service that powers everything from distance learning to business meetings to casual, socially distant get-togethers — abruptly went dead.

For roughly two-and-a-half hours on Aug. 24, many users were unable to load the Zoom website, others could neither host nor join scheduled meetings. Zoom said the problem started shortly after midnight EDT and seemed to be fixed by 3 a.m. ET.

The company reported on its status page.

The timing was less than ideal, since many schools across the U.S. were just starting online instruction after a summer surge in the coronavirus pandemic switched many plans to reopen classes with students present in the flesh.

Zoom did not disclose the cause of the problem, which appeared to hit both coasts of the U.S. especially hard.

Seven-day moving average of new cases

Data of a seven-day moving average of new confirmed cases in the U.S. and Utah COVID-19 since March 7. (Source: The COVID Tracking Project)
A freshman experience like no other

BYU’s COVID-19 policy enforcement unclear

BYU has released a new set of FAQs on Wednesday, Aug. 26, that address some issues of enforcement. The FAQs state that individuals who are non-compliant with campus COVID policies will have their on-campus privileges restricted, which may include not being able to attend class on campus, work on campus or receive in-person campus services. It could also result in suspension and loss of employment.

BYU’s COVID-19 policy enforcement is designed to help students follow BYU’s COVID requirements. However, if non-compliance with BYU’s COVID-19 requirements continues, these situations can be reported at a local level first and should be addressed by area supervisors, managers and building managers.

Reports of students who are non-compliant can be submitted to the BYU COVID-19 Compliance Committee. Students in the Office of the General Counsel, for example, suspended 23 students after a large group of students were caught adjusting to college life, but having it be totally different than what you were expected to. Said Callie Turner, an incoming freshman from San Antonio, Texas. The Daily Universe conducted a informal internal survey asking what incoming BYU students were most worried about. The responses included missing out on college experiences, accessing resources traditionally available to students, grades suffering due to online learning and getting sick due to a COVID-19 outbreak.

“We are asking the members of our campus community to please be intentional right now to keep themselves and the BYU campus community safe. In order for this semester on campus to work, it will require a concerted effort from all of us working together,” Jenkins said. Additional reporting by Liz Abshy.

Police Beat

Provo

Aug. 24 – An unlawful entry burglary was reported at 800 N. 200 E.

Aug. 25 – An unlawful entry burglary was reported in a residence at 625 N. 200 E.

Aug. 24 – The President’s Office of Criminal Investigation Division is investigating a burglary that occurred on Aug. 7. The theft reportedly occurred at the Clubhouse (the King Hall apartment complex). Cutting and items from the refrigerator were reported stolen.

SLASH Assault

Aug. 24 – An individual was sexually assaulted near North State Street.

Aug. 26 – An individual was sexually assaulted near Center Street.

Aug. 28 – An individual was sexually assaulted near Geneva Road.

A group walks around the BYU campus. For this year’s incoming freshmen, the aspect of the first-year experience will be different. Scan this image with the BYU logo and chinese translation of the story.

GATHERINGS

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Continued from Page 1

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BYU...student jobs this fall will look different than past semesters. New changes will require face masks and other safety precautions, and some jobs will allow students to work remotely or a mix of remote and on-campus.

BYU Student Employment Director Jenifer Jarvis said she has specific numbers on how many student jobs will offer remote work in the fall since that decision falls to each department; however, she said that anxieties are moving forward with their plans and “utilizing student employees both remotely and in-person.” “Some jobs can be done both remotely and in-person, and some jobs are in-person only. It varies widely by department and by the specific position,” she said. “Our experience since last March has shown us that some jobs can be modified for remote work. It is up to each department to make that determination.”

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic forced many students to leave home earlier this year, Jarvis noted there was still a large number of student employees this summer. “During Summer Term 2020, we had more than 1,000 student employees versus 936 in 2019,” she said. “So BYU was able to continue employing students during the pandemic, both remotely and in-person.”

Last year’s BYU employed 15,000 students, compared to 12,000 to 13,000 at Jarvis’ alma mater. Last year’s BYU has a vast number of student employees, Jarvis said over the past several years, about 1,000 student jobs per semester have been filled, so plenty of jobs should be available this fall.

“I am optimistic that there will be opportunities available for those students who are available, willing to work and flexible about their work hours,” she said. Still, working on campus this fall will be a different experience for some student employees.

Emily Workman, a second-year elementary education major, has been working at Janitor Juice on campus this summer and will continue to do so on campus. Workman said she is required to wear a mask and gloves and wash her hands every 20 minutes. “There is a supervisor that walks around and makes sure everyone is constantly washing their hands,” she said.

Though several jobs are allowing students to work remotely, Workman said she’s not too concerned about being required to work on campus. “I work in a job that required safety precautions. I am currently interacting with customers is limited,” she said. “Only the person on the register talks to the customer and even then there is a shield of protection kind of thing between them and the customer.”

However, come Thanksgiving when BYU goes fully online, she doesn’t know what that will look like.

“It’s not a job I can do remotely, so I’m worried about that. I haven’t received any notices about what will happen or what the plan is. I don’t even know if I’ll be working there still,” said Macy Banfill, who has been working as a TA for BYU Online. “I’m not really sure about my future plans.”

Some student employees, however, are optimistic about their future plans. “I feel like the interaction with customers is limited,” she said. “I do it all remotely.”

Banfill said she’s been working for several years, about 1,000 students to work remotely

BYU Law

BYU Law will remain open, but it will look a little different this Fall Semester.

According to library communications manager Roger Layton, there are some big changes that members of the campus community will see in the library.

Masks are required, and hundreds of chairs are going to be relocated to facilitate social distancing—on a charger table. Group study rooms will be repurposed into individual study rooms or rooms for faculty who need space to teach online. The family study area will be locked up.

Layton said the library will encourage everyone to be socially distant, but social distancing won’t be enforced if someone comes to work with their spouse or group of people they know BYU in person.

Layton said the library will still be available for the next person to use BYU Online.

BYUOnline

BYU Online, said not much will change for her job come Fall Semester since she has already been working remotely elsewhere than the building in person.

“Library hours have been altered to follow BYU’s new schedule. Singles must book study rooms or places for faculty who need space to teach online. The library is public, but it will be a different experience for some student employees.”

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BYU Library

BYU Library will remain the same; however, testing, email and phone will now be accessible by appointment only. Layton said the library won’t remain open until 2 a.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. to midnight on Saturdays.

According to Layton, the library plans on opening at 8 a.m. upon Thanksgiving break when classes get started. “Since we are doing our normal things and working on campus, we are keeping our normal hours open.”

Layton said the library will have a policy by semester. “It’s going to be pretty consistent,” he said. The library will only be open to students during normal hours.

The library will be open 26 hours per week, but not all libraries are being pushed back to being available in the spring, but now.

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BYU senior linebacker Kavika Fonua celebrates after making a play against Tennessee on Sept. 7. 2019. Fonua has faced many unexpected changes during his college career with the pandemic being the most recent. Scan this image with the Universe Plus app to read a Spanish translation of this story.

**BYU Football’s Kavika Fonua finding solace in past adversities**

By JOSH CARTER

Fonua, a former three-star prospect out of Syracuse High School, and his living experience at BYU, is the “heart of the school,” BYU student Jeannette Coleman said.

"It's always a fun tradition, and the student section is the ‘heart of the school’," BYU Athletics Marketing Coordinator Jordan Rid said. "It's obviously disheartening that students won't be able to connect once (WCC) sporting events to cheer on our student-athletes. We are focusing on keeping everyone healthy and continuing to prepare for football and sports that will happen in the winter."

The Daily Universe conducted an informal poll on Instagram, asking students for input on what attendance at BYU football games should look like, and whether students should attend.

Opinions were divided, with many saying students should not go due to the virus, while others argued the student section is the "hub of the student body and limiting exposure from visitors coming from outside the city and state." Several students said that as long as there are social distancing and other protocols in place to lower the risk of infection, they plan on attending BYU football games.

"Attending football games are a staple in any BYU student’s college bucket list," BYU student Amnecia Coleman said. "Another student, Alenna Mee, said that the student section is the reason (BYU) football is so good, and Tyson Sailby said he would even come out if necessary."

"Students will have to continue to do their part to maintain a low-risk environment in order for fans to be allowed to attend at all," BYU recently addressed this in a series of Instagram stories, asking students to mask up and avoid large gatherings so there’s no COVID-19 breakout as the school year begins.

"Also, I’ve been working on teaching everyone I’ve learned from the past to the juniors and seniors," Fonua added. "I think that they can have a big impact on the future of the team."

By JOSHDUBER

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BYU senior linebacker Kavika Fonua celebrates after making a play against Tennessee on Sept. 7. 2019. Fonua has faced many unexpected changes during his college career with the pandemic being the most recent. Scan this image with the Universe Plus app to read a Spanish translation of this story.

**BYU Football sets to play its first home game of the 2020 season less than a month from now on Sept. 26**

**BYU**

BYU senior linebacker Kavika Fonua has dealt with a number of unexpected changes throughout his six-year college career. Fonua, a former three-star prospect out of Syracuse High School, and his living experience at BYU, is the “heart of the school,” BYU student Jeannette Coleman said:

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BYU senior linebacker Kavika Fonua celebrates after making a play against Tennessee on Sept. 7. 2019. Fonua has faced many unexpected changes during his college career with the pandemic being the most recent. Scan this image with the Universe Plus app to read a Spanish translation of this story.
I thought a huge sigh of relief on the night of Aug. 27 when the Provo City Council voted to override Mayor Michelle Kaufmann’s veto and pass an ordinance to mandate masks in Provo. It also seemed pretty clear to me what the City Council’s decision should be: If BYU is going to have any chance of staying in person this semester, we need a mask mandate in Provo. The lack of commitment to masking and social distancing I’ve seen on the part of my peers and other UVU students is something that has — and I’m not exaggerating — kept me up at night. I issued an international flight back to Utah on Aug. 27, the last semester classes at BYU. Before and after I bought this ticket, one concern was always in the back of every student’s mind: spreading hundreds of dollars to travel back to Utah (and possibly risking exposure to COVID-19 in the process) just for BYU to go online again a week or two later. So what I heard the City Council was considering was reasonable, specifically because BYU and UVU students were returning. I was teenage. I hadn’t realized how different roles as other U.S. universities like Notre Dame and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill that have recently reopened only to return online after COVID outbreaks.

I boarded an international flight back to Utah on Aug. 27 to start Fall Semester classes at BYU. Make sure you all cherish every game. The lack of commitment to mask wearing by the Killing of George Floyd — undermined instead of advances any cause it must be unambiguously condemned. — ElderBacklund

I was hopeful that BYU wouldn’t suffer the same fate as other U.S. universities like Notre Dame and The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill that have recently reopened only to return online after COVID outbreaks.

Multiple large gatherings have been sighted this summer: protests in other cities — and we accept these limits within our “liberty.”

Young/Dumb on Aug. 7, as well as the interconnectedness of student off-campus housing with one another offer chances for COVID to spread through the campus community. On campus, Provo has never been much better. Multiple large gatherings have been sighted this summer: protests in other cities. People act different when wearing masks.”

I'm not about it.

Masks don't make for people social distancing. People act different when wearing masks. 

Provo mask mandate

Provo’s City Council should be commended for unanim­ously passing an ordinance mandating the wearing of masks in public places. While the measures required a com­promise that leaves some of its exceptions up to interpreta­tion, the overall idea — making masks an expected adornment within city limits — is good and necessary. Temporary mask mandates are not illegal or unconstitutional, as some claim. They are appropriate temporary measures that fulfill elected officials’ duty to protect public health in a pandemic.

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The Washington Post

Riots and violence

There are so many disturbing things about the shooting death of two people on Aug. 25 during protests in Kenosha, Wis.

In so many and so justifiable for the kill of black people has followed peaceful protests inKenosha with street skirmishes, looting, burning and other destruction to busi­nesses and government buildings. Such mindless violence — which unfortunately has accompanied some protests in other cities this summer as the country was raked by the killing of George Floyd — undermined instead of advances any cause it must be unambiguously condemned.

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Reopening schools

Utah, along with much of the rest of the United States, is in the verge of reopening its schools — public schools and colleges — after having spent the past several months not doing so. Reopening the schools again — or, at least, the need to close all the schools again — are high. I must wear masks.

— ElderBacklund

The Salt Lake Tribune

The Salt Lake Tribune

We can’t have any chance of staying in person this semester, we need a mask mandate in Provo.

Policy

Provo doesn’t have a mask mandate or BYU’s in-person plan is at risk

While BYU’s mask requirement and other safety guidelines will help prevent COVID spread, what students do off and on campus may benefit the efforts BYU made to ensure its in-person learning continues until Thanksgiving. Large, unmasked gatherings where social dis­tancing isn’t followed, such as partly hosted by Young/ Dumb on Aug. 7, as well as the interconnectedness of student off-campus housing with one another offer chances for COVID to spread through the campus community. On campus, Provo has never been much better.

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I went to Goblin Valley thinking rearview mirror are missing out form of sleep insomnia. Facer, of about their symptoms. If he sus -
The well-kept secret of spring said. "My dreams are really spend sleeping is time Facer can [a night]. I've been on every type years later, doctors are still un -
bare necessities. something no one else was doing, sleep much, but it was still fun."
camped during winter semester. symptoms could come from a sure to check the events calendar For those seeking a spiritual
For those seeking a spiritual member is in danger or someone online to find affordable, au -
gling to think of a present for
got some wooden dowels
"I work a lot," he said. "I do a shrinking body of
"Sometimes [when I am dream -
"Each wand is unique and re -
"Gotta go!"

I sleep maybe six hours a
"Life is too short to spend it
bassoon, with a sleeping bag stacked on
Sara Anstead whittles harry potter-inspired wands to sell on etsy.
photo by Sarah Shepherd

Sudoku
5 2 4 9 1
3 7 1 5 9 7 3
8 4 5 1 7 9 3
7 1 2 6 1 4 7
2 8 9 6 3 1 7 5 2
4 6 3 1 2 5 6 3 4
6 2 5 1 4 3 8 4 9

ACROSS
1. One of the Twelve Apostles (Edie Falco role)
2. A board game
3. Nutcracker or Happy Feet
4. Peculiar (abbr)
5. "Shifty"
6. "It's a long shot"
7. An African capital
8. Currency
9. Japanese word for "art"
10. "Despite"
11. "The Prince"
12. "The Three Musketeers"
13. "The Lord of the Rings"
14. "The Da Vinci Code"
15. "The Firm"
16. "The Outsiders"
17. "The Great Gatsby"

DOWN
1. "The Catcher in the Rye"
2. "The Great Gatsby"
3. "The Da Vinci Code"
4. "The Lord of the Rings"
5. "The Outsiders"
6. "The Firm"
7. "The Three Musketeers"
8. "The Prince"
9. "Shifty"
10. "It's a long shot"
11. "Despite"
12. "The Three Musketeers"
13. "The Da Vinci Code"
14. "The Lord of the Rings"
15. "The Firm"
16. "The Prince"

ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

The New York Times
Edited by Will Shortz  No. 0727

The New York Times
Edited by Will Shortz  No. 0728
BYU Store reduces textbook prices, seeks to regain student business

The BYU Store is promising to offer the lowest textbook prices with its new Student Guarantee for rented textbooks. The program, which includes a price-match guarantee for rented textbooks and early order pickup, was designed to attract students who have lost their business elsewhere for textbooks.

“The ultimate goal is to regain the trust and affinity of the students and position ourselves so that we can attract students who have taken their business elsewhere for textbooks,” said BYU Store director Mark Clegg.

Rental prices have been reduced for about two thirds of the required textbooks. The remaining third of course materials, Clegg said, are more expensive items such as consumable packets. The BYU Store is guaranteeing to rent books at the lowest price and will match any online price at a legitimate textbook vendor. Clegg said the BYU Store is already seeing an increase in demand since launching the initiative.

“The hope is that long term we can use the reputation as the best source for your textbooks which allows us to live more fully,” he said.

Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and BYU President Kevin J. Worthen spoke in the annual University Conference Aug. 24. Their remarks followed the tertiary BYU in accomplishing its divine purpose, even while facing setbacks and constant—time—changing plans for the coming months, and pointed that BYU would soon accomplish many more things, such as an increasing enrollment by 3,000 students within the next five years.

Elder Cook addressed criticisms frequently directed at the Church and the university, including recent comments on the Church’s history with regards to slavery and other race-related issues. The Church, he said, does not respond to every criticism because “many criticisms are not worthy of a response.” Other times, the Church chooses simply “to turn the other cheek” instead of engaging critics whose arguments against the Church are untrue or unfair.

“IT is clear from numerous media reports and observed public comments that some people involved in today’s various movements are deeply opposed to religion and people of faith. This does not diminish the religious and secular reasons for equal treatment of all of God’s children,” Elder Cook said.

“I am concerned when much of the discussion is an attack on faith and belief, often reframing and distorting history,” Elder Cook acknowledged the Church’s complicated history with regards to race, including controversial comments made by Brigham Young about Black people and tensions between some early Church members and Native Americans. He also shared stories of diversity and inclusivity in the mostly white community, such as the anti-saluter position held by many early members and the celebratory attitude with which members received the revelation to ordain Black men to the Aaronic Priesthood.

Elder Cook encouraged these notes in an address to “correct falsehoods and matters taken out of context in a loving and kind way,” and to defend their faith when necessary.

“My challenge to you today is that individually and as a university, we need to tackle against the prevailing winds of disbelief and division,” he said.

Testing
BYU’s plan for Fall Semester

Testing all students every two days with a rapid, inexpensive, even poorly-sensible test paired with uncompromising vigilance and continuous attention to good prevention practices may be the only way to widely open campuses in the fall, according to the researchers.

“This is an exceptionally high bar, and it may well be beyond the capacity of many schools,” the lead author, A. David Posfai, said.

The authors estimated the per-student cost over an 85-day semester of implementing their recommendation every one, two, or seven days would come out to $910, $470, or $120 respectively.

Since BYU is a private university, it does not release information about its finances. However, it was ranked 51st out of the top 120 U.S. degree-granting postsecondary institutions with the largest endowments in 2018, the most recent year in which data was collected.

Commuters on the Harvard and Yale study emphasized that “one size does not fit all” when it comes to universities and COVID-19 testing, but the BYU community won’t be surrounded by people, he said.

He reminded that God would sustain BYU in accomplishing its divine purpose, even while facing setbacks and constant—time—changing plans for the coming months, and pointed that BYU would soon accomplish many more things, such as an increasing enrollment by 3,000 students within the next five years.

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