

Academic Institution Protection Services

Campus Health & Safety During COVID-19

Michael Best and TRC are working together to help higher education institutions to cope with disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In today's suddenly altered environment, maintaining campus safety and operational, academic continuity is crucial. Our firms have joined forces to bring you all the legal and technical services needed to assess your institutional risk and help your faculty, staff, and students safely return to campus.

Campus Protection Program

Our program is a one-stop shop for campus community protection in the COVID-19 era—from student and employment policies and on-campus screening to classroom layout, incident response, and classroom and laboratory sanitation.

Scientific models now indicate that COVID-19 or future strains may persist into 2021. Colleges and universities must find new ways to survive and thrive. Michael Best and TRC can help you create a “new normal” that is sustainable, restores academic operations, and is consistent with your institutional values and mission.

Key points in our comprehensive, integrated approach are outlined below. Contact us to discuss a custom service package and pricing.

Policy Development

Most U.S. states now require employers to have written policies to help control viral spread, and federal agencies are continually updating workplace guidance. Academic institutions must take additional measures to protect the health and safety of faculty, staff, and students. We've helped manage responses to hundreds of COVID-19 cases and have developed best practices to:

- Follow national, state, and local back-to-work guidelines
- Meet new COVID-19 regulatory requirements for institutions to reopen
- Restructure resources and implement remote working and learning
- Implement campus hygiene and sanitization procedures
- Provide personal protective equipment (PPE), clothing, and barriers
- Screen and train vendors, visitors, and contractors
- Monitor employee and student health
- Investigate exposure and keep symptomatic or infected community members off-campus
- Communicate with constituents while maintaining employee and student privacy
- Assess risks and implement facility modification or potential campus closures
- Provide counseling and telehealth for community members affected by the virus
- Consider employee and student housing options and alterations
- Environmental compliance and campus safety

Cleaning Program Management

Heightened standards of sanitation are here to stay. We help institutions achieve the new hygiene standards, by training and overseeing your crew. Services include:

- Develop facility-specific disinfection protocols to meet CDC/OSHA standards
- Train your employees and cleaning crews in new protocols and PPE
- Air measurement, disinfection, and management
- Optimize air handling systems to reduce risk of disease transmission
- Tech-enabled program management and data management
- Scientific, quantitative, real-time testing and documentation of cleaning efficacy
- Subcontractor and supplier management
- Expert witness support
- Long-term program management and continual improvement

Medical & Epidemiology Services

Medical advice or diagnosis is required by various new federal and state laws that address paid employee leave, quarantine practices, and health screening. Our Safe & Healthy Workplace program can assist with:

- Employee and student screening and medical management
- Triage of symptomatic cases
- Return-to-campus recommendations
- Exposure management and communications
- Cluster monitoring and management
- Contact investigation and tracing

Risk Management

- Legally compliant management and documentation of incident and exposure responses
- Medical review of decision matrix
- Privacy and data security review
- Credentialed documentation and reporting on cleaning and hygiene protocols

Government & Public Relations

- Crisis communications (internal and external)
- Media and community relations
- Accreditation and regulatory management
- Government relations

Michael Best & TRC

Michael Best is a full-service law firm with 14 offices across the country, with extensive experience counseling more than 80 higher education institutions on a full range of legal issues on campus including employment matters, Title IX, intellectual property protection, technology transfer, real estate transactions, project development, and cybersecurity. We know how educational institutions work and the challenges academic leaders face. Our nationally ranked Labor & Employment group helps clients throughout the country make student- and employment-related decisions. Our Workplace Safety & Health team is among the most active in the nation, handling hundreds of OSHA citations, fatalities, and accidents at any given time.

TRC is a global consulting, engineering, and construction management firm with 120 offices in the U.S. We combine science with the latest technology to devise innovative solutions that stand the test of time. TRC's 5,000 professionals work with a broad range of commercial, industrial, and government clients and the communities they serve.

Our joint Academic Institution Protection Services offering brings together more than 200 years of legal, business, and technical experience from both firms. We're here to help you protect the public health and re-open your campus doors.

Contact Us

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