The Reopening Plan was diligently and thoughtfully established based on several sets of guidelines to protect students, faculty, and staff. Reopening plans generally follow specific to Interim Guidance for Higher Education issued by the New York State Department of Health, and they take into account Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CIU) guidelines for reopening institutions of higher education and guidance from the American College Health Association (ACHA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Principles Underlying Reopening Plan:
1. Physical distancing and mask wearing.
3. Additional case finding, reporting, tracing, and contact isolation.
4. Social distancing mandates.
5. Additional cleaning of facilities.
6. Additional case finding, reporting, tracing, and contact isolation.
7. Additional cleaning of facilities.
8. Additional case finding, reporting, tracing, and contact isolation.
9. Additional cleaning of facilities.
10. Additional case finding, reporting, tracing, and contact isolation.
11. Additional cleaning of facilities.
12. Additional case finding, reporting, tracing, and contact isolation.
13. Additional cleaning of facilities.
14. Additional case finding, reporting, tracing, and contact isolation.
15. Additional cleaning of facilities.
16. Additional case finding, reporting, tracing, and contact isolation.
17. Additional cleaning of facilities.
18. Additional case finding, reporting, tracing, and contact isolation.
19. Additional cleaning of facilities.
20. Additional case finding, reporting, tracing, and contact isolation.
21. Additional cleaning of facilities.
22. Additional case finding, reporting, tracing, and contact isolation.
23. Additional cleaning of facilities.
24. Additional case finding, reporting, tracing, and contact isolation.
25. Additional cleaning of facilities.
26. Additional case finding, reporting, tracing, and contact isolation.
27. Additional cleaning of facilities.
28. Additional case finding, reporting, tracing, and contact isolation.
29. Additional cleaning of facilities.
30. Additional case finding, reporting, tracing, and contact isolation.
31. Additional cleaning of facilities.

In-Person Instruction:
ILI is an on-campus university. Our students want to be in the classroom, and ILI will provide students with the exceptional educational and student life experience that students expect. Professors and faculty expect the Reopening Plan will protect students, faculty and staff health and safety, and thereby ensure safe in-person instruction.

Nevertheless, the University is mindful of the need to consider individual student, faculty and staff situations. As set forth in the Reopening Plan, students, faculty and staff seeking reasonable accommodation and alternative work arrangements should contact the Dean of Students (students) and Human Resources (faculty and staff).

Our desire has reached out to all faculty to make certain faculty are prepared to return to campus; and, where they are concerned, Dean of students have offered faculty members to Human Resources for consultation. A one-size-fits-all approach does not work for a particular individual student, faculty, or staff member circumstances. The University is committed to engaging in conversations with faculty and staff on an individual basis and considering every request for a reasonable accommodation or alternative work arrangement.

ILI Reopening Communication:
I strongly agree and support the principle that all ILI university community members possess voice in campus voices. With regard to the ILI Reopening Plan, we must respect proper protocol in ensuring student sentiment. Recently, several students were asked to provide their views and feedback on best methods for addressing any issues that arise and will continue to do so as we move closer to reopening.

Reopening plan committee members act as task forces to their specific programs. Each task force identifies campus/department-specific issues, identifies potential solutions, addresses CURE, CIU, CDC, and OSHA guidelines. Approved Plans will be reviewed to address any new COVID guidelines and requirements. Finally, in the event of any unmanageable to forward-looking request program changes to the respective program department. With input from the Reopening Plan Committee, ILI will continue to have weekly-decking reopening meetings – now on a biweekly basis – and if needed will adjust the request plan.

Forums for Reopening Questions:
ILI administration has made every effort to address questions regarding face-to-face instruction and the University’s return to campus. Students concerned about how to move forward with the leadership were reviewed at the July 24 Reopening Committee meeting. Since that meeting, ILI has met with every academic program in town hall-style meetings to discuss specific reopening plans and answer faculty questions. At the August 19, reopening meeting, ILI provided a detailed overview of new protocols and made available to administration. The past week, we held full faculty town hall meetings to provide forum to answer and discuss any remaining faculty questions. As our request plan is modified and updated, this is the portal reopening-plan will undoubtedly be necessary. We will continue to reach out to campuses for dissemination new information and answer questions.

As a university we are at all times focused on what is best for our students, faculty, and staff. During this unprecedented time, everyone’s safety is the highest priority. It is especially important that we speak to the entire University community with one voice. We will continue to keep you informed on a weekly basis and as the plan takes shape.

Sincerely,

Randall Bury
ILI President for Academic Affairs

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs