



# COLLEGE MATRICULATION DURING COVID-19

## Guide for IDEA Alumni

To Our Alumni,

Matriculation is just a month away! How EXCITING! You are engaging in your first college course is the first step towards college GRADUATION! We are so excited to see you start your THROUGH college career. We know that you may have some unique questions that you and your family are working through with your college counseling staff at your IDEA campus right now and we want you to continue to do that, but we also wanted to provide you a few additional resources. Below are questions we have heard from your peers and from college students matriculating Fall of 2020 across the U.S. Take a look at our considerations and answers to those common questions below.

Best,  
IDEA Alumni Affairs Team



### I am worried about returning/matriculating to my campus of choice. Where can I find information about the “back to campus” plans for my college?

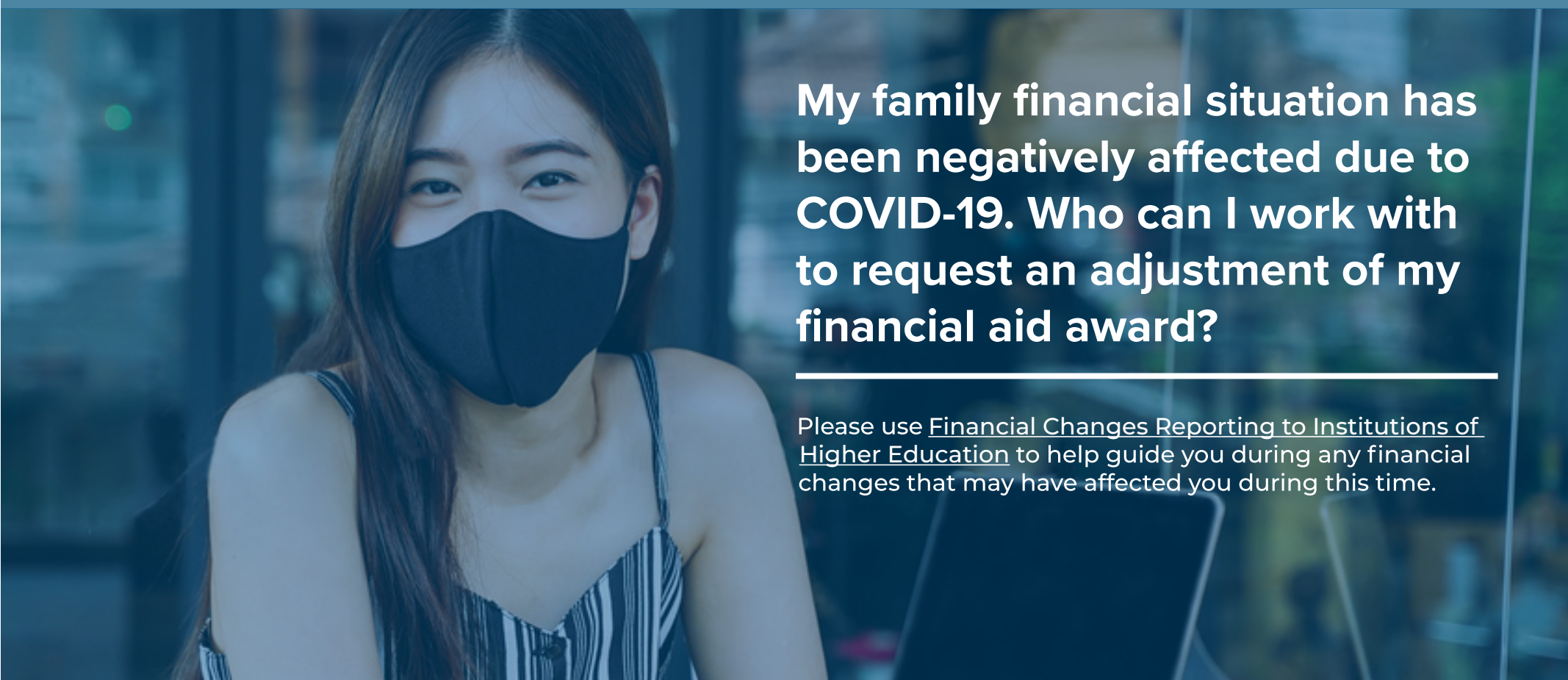
This is the most pressing question right now, and the worst thing you can do is assume what your college is doing based on what other campuses are saying. Be sure to educate yourself on the specific plan that your college has for re-opening.

It will be important to check your college email regularly to stay aware of any updates or changes. You will be the first to know about university plans, do not just rely on what you hear on social media. The article linked below has information for a lot of colleges and universities with updated links to each of their plans:

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/Here-s-a-List-of-Colleges-/248626>

If there is a college that is not listed in the link above, go to the college website. They will have a tab at the top of their homepage that provides a link to COVID-19 updates. Follow this link for information on '20-'21 plans and other pandemic-related information.

Please know that the feeling of worry is natural in times of transition. A resource made free ONLY for IDEA Alumni to aid in this uncertain and overwhelming time is [Headspace](#).



### My family financial situation has been negatively affected due to COVID-19. Who can I work with to request an adjustment of my financial aid award?

Please use [Financial Changes Reporting to Institutions of Higher Education](#) to help guide you during any financial changes that may have affected you during this time.

### My classes are moving at least partially online, and I do not have a reliable computer. What resources are available to me?

Many colleges will have laptop computers that you can borrow for extended periods. These are typically housed in the library or with information technology. Check with your campus to see what opportunities exist.

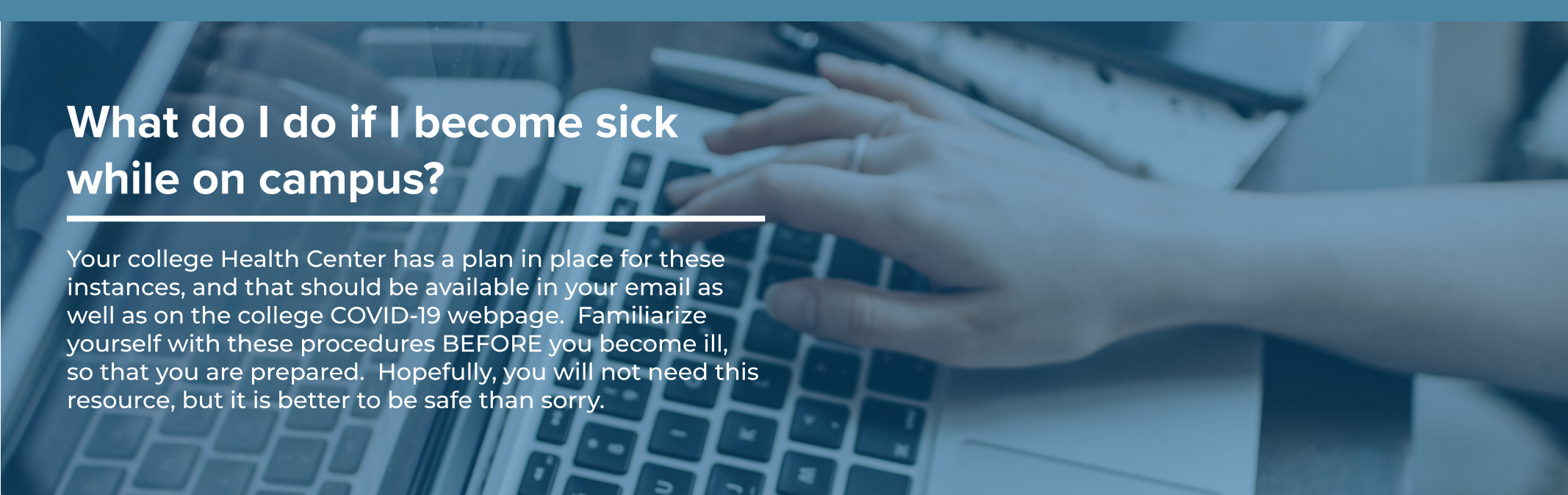
CARES Act funding or Emergency funding are available on many campuses to help cover costs for education-related technology. Check with your Office of Financial Aid and/or Dean of Students Office to see if funds are available to help with technology purchases.

### My Work Study position will not be available due to campus restrictions. Where can I find support to replace those lost wages?

First, reach out to your Office of Financial Aid to see if they have a plan to support students who are losing Work Study opportunities due to COVID-19.

Your Dean of Students Office will often have programs in place to help students who have concerns meeting their needs. These may include meal-sharing programs, food pantries, clothes closets, etc.

Familiarize yourself with the local community and opportunities for off-campus work as well as community resources for those in need.



### What do I do if I become sick while on campus?

Your college Health Center has a plan in place for these instances, and that should be available in your email as well as on the college COVID-19 webpage. Familiarize yourself with these procedures BEFORE you become ill, so that you are prepared. Hopefully, you will not need this resource, but it is better to be safe than sorry.

### I receive accommodations in the classroom. How will that be handled in a remote setting?

College campuses are addressing this concern in several ways but be assured that they all have a plan. It will be important to check with the Office of Academic Advising before beginning classes to make sure that they have everything they need from you to be able to deliver these services. It may look different this year, but you will have access to the accommodations you require.

### What will Orientation and Move-In Day look like?

Orientation has moved online at most colleges, but again it will be important to check your college email for updates. You can also go to the college website and review the information for First-Year or Transfer Student Orientation.

Move-In day will not be what you have pictured or seen in movies. If you have someone driving you or escorting you to campus it is highly likely that they will be allowed very little time on campus. Be prepared to say a quick good-bye as campuses are significantly limiting the number of non-student/staff allowed on the campus.

### I'm nervous about being successful in a virtual class environment. How are students successful in this model of instruction?

#### Tips from an IDEA alum

In order to be successful, you need to come up with a schedule and stick to it to ensure that you are doing all the assignments given to you. It helps a lot to remind yourself that you are still a student and need to focus. Something I did was to ensure that I wrote everything down in my planner or white board and used different apps on my phone to ensure that I wasn't distracted by it. At first it was hard, but you will get used to it and if you need help in anything remember to communicate with your professor.



### I am attending college outside the state of Texas, will I have to quarantine?

There are currently 17 states requiring a 14 day quarantine for visitors from outside the state:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/suzannerowankelleher/2020/07/08/road-trip-alert-the-list-of-states-with-travel-quarantines-keeps-growing/#6fd07b4266bd>

Your college will have information on any quarantine requirements and protocols, but it is best to study these before you leave. A quarantine period can be mentally and emotionally taxing, but you can get through it if you prepare yourself in advance.

Some colleges are now requiring students from “quarantine” states to take all classes online, so be sure to check with your college regularly for updates.

### How will I make new connections with students given the lack of in-person events being held on my campus?

Large scale events that make it easy to meet other students will not take place on most college campuses this Fall, but that does not mean you cannot make new friends. Take part in online programs to meet new people and set up meetings in small groups that follow the safety protocols laid out by your college.

When you are participating in virtual group activities be sure that you have your camera on when allowed. Something as simple as seeing someone's face can completely change the experience.

Your Alumni Affairs Manager has contact with other IDEA students who will be attending your college. If you have not attended a group call or had your one-on-one with your Alumni Affairs Manager use that as an opportunity to connect with new faces before you get to campus.