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From the Buffalo Business First:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/buffalo/news/2020/05/29/canisius-reopening.html>

# Administrators working toward 'best Canisius education' post-coronavirus

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Canisius College is the **latest Western New York institution to reaffirm its commitment** to ending its coronavirus-forced campus closure in the fall.

Canisius President John Hurley said



administration has devoted most of its summer preparation time to getting it ready to reopen Aug.

31. While much of the **college's work earlier in the pandemic**

helped the campus shift to remote learning, Hurley said the work in the coming weeks will ensure a safe, in-person learning environment.

"Nothing is absolute. This is all subject to the directives that the state and the county impose," he said. "But it's our intent to be live on campus in the fall. That's the way we've always done it. That's the preferred way of doing it. We're not an online school."

That's not to say that online learning will be completely absent from the curriculum. Hurley said the college is looking at a condensed fall calendar, similar to what some other colleges around the country are considering, that would see in-person instruction wrap up by Thanksgiving break. In the case of Canisius, that would be followed by a week of online instruction and remotely administered exams, so that the risk of students bringing the virus back and forth from home is minimized. He stressed that any fall calendar has yet to be finalized.

The college is also working on a five-point plan to ensure the health of everyone on campus:

- Baseline and ongoing Covid-19 testing for students
- Adequate spacing to reduce density and ensure social distancing
- Have in place a plan for quarantining and isolating people who may get sick

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John Hurley, president of Canisius College, said he and his staff have agreed upon a goal as they plan for a full semester during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Ramp up the ability to conduct contact tracing

"It's an enormous strain on our employees," said Hurley, who noted that nearly all employees are still working remotely while trying to plan the fall semester. "We have to factor in facilities and management people, the health center, residence life. And what does teaching and learning look like with this new reality?"

All of the planning could be for naught if the government declares that campuses can't open back up, he noted. Canisius isn't moving up its opening date because administrators need every second to prepare and because New York could end up like Connecticut, where the government said schools can't reopen until Aug. 24, which would make any such plans moot.

Current and prospective student planning has also proven tricky. Hurley said the school is still receiving deposits, but it's running behind on its 2020-21 enrollment targets even with the deadline pushed back to June 1. He feels the school will get a better handle after that date on how many families are waiting for the state to say if in-person instruction can happen before they commit their money.

"We're still in the game (in terms of enrollment goals), but it's been difficult," he said. "This is an enormous planning exercise that is underway. But we know what the end goal needs to be. We're pointing toward Aug. 31 as the first day of classes, and everything has to be calibrated toward that goal."

### **Paul Lane**

Data Reporter

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