Rapid Reviews COVID-19

Review 4: "Reopening universities during the COVID-19 pandemic: A testing strategy to minimize active cases and delay outbreaks."

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RR:C19 Evidence Scale rating by reviewer:

- **Potentially informative.** The main claims made are not strongly justified by the methods and data, but may yield some insight. The results and conclusions of the study may resemble those from the hypothetical ideal study, but there is substantial room for doubt. Decision-makers should consider this evidence only with a thorough understanding of its weaknesses, alongside other evidence and theory. Decision-makers should not consider this actionable, unless the weaknesses are clearly understood and there is other theory and evidence to further support it.

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Review:

This article discusses strategies for screening and mitigating covid 19 in a US university campus with approximately 25,000 students. I agree that campuses may be important places for the spread of the virus. Concerning the period of contagiousness of the virus, the authors use a period of 3 days. This seems rather short when compared with generally assumed values.
The study of the literature seems rather indicated a much longer period of contagiousness of about 14 days as mentioned in one of our articles. The authors should justify their choice and give references. What could be the consequences on the cases of active infections, the occupancy rate of isolation beds, or contact cases if the duration of contagiousness was 10 days or 14 days?
Another concern is the fact that the study focused only on students and not on all university staff. Students have contact with university staff and other people in the surroundings of the university. This important fact should be taken into account.