

How Greenville University Used Science, Faith and Technology to Keep COVID at Bay in Fall 2020

When the coronavirus pandemic hit the US in March 2020, the leadership team at Greenville University in Greenville, Illinois—a private, faith-based institution of nearly 1,000 students an hour's drive from St. Louis—wasted no time.



The Timeline

MAY



Greenville partnered with the University of Illinois to deploy the rapid response saliva based Covid test that U of I researchers had developed. The test:

- Could identify coronavirus **99.8%** of the time.
- Created few **false positives**.
- Delivered results **in less than 24 hours**.
- Cost **70 to 80% less** than a nasal swab test.

JUN



Surveying the GU students that summer, one concern stood out: **the desire to be on campus and in class in the fall**, no matter what procedures they needed to follow to make it happen.

JUL



Greenville publicly committed to opening campus on August 21 and commencing in-person classes on August 24. **Covid testing would begin August 14.**

AUG



On August 1, it was clear the procedures documentation and mobile app for testing and contact tracing that GU anticipated receiving from U of I **were not going to be ready** in time.

The institution was due to begin testing in two weeks, and it had no policies, no mobile app, and no IT systems in place to handle a comprehensive Covid testing and tracing regimen.

Developing the Solution

GU's CIO—part of the Dynamic Campus team, GU's technology outsourcing partner—worked with U of I's testing lab and GU's IT team to develop a low-cost, comprehensive solution.



“Even though we had 14 days to implement everything, our first day of testing went on without a hitch.”

SUZANNE DAVIS
President, Greenville University

01

GU Students and staff **use a check-in kiosk at the campus testing location to log on to Jenzabar**, GU's enterprise resource planning (ERP) platform.

02

The subjects **collect their saliva specimen and the tube is labelled with fake information about the student in an encrypted file**, to protect personally identifiable information throughout the chain.

03

U of I's testing lab **processes the samples and used Secure FTP to return an encrypted file with the anonymized results** to GU and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

04

IDPH confirms the results and GU logs them into Jenzabar, matching the fake information with the actual student information.

05

GU personnel **immediately begin quarantining any positive students** and contact tracing any other students, faculty or staff they may have encountered.

Measuring the Results

245

people tested on Day One



24

hour results turnaround (compared to 2-3 days at larger institutions)



709

Fall 2020 enrollment (top end projections were for 678 during the summer)



17,487

samples tested through October 2020



39

Spring 2021 transfer students inbound (normally there are just a few)



39

unique positives



95-99%

testing participation on campus



90%

students who intend to return in Spring 2021 (historically 75% peak)



\$5,000

total cost of the homegrown IT solution to conduct all testing and contact tracing on campus



\$60,000

cost of Mediat, the health records platform many institutions use to handle the same responsibilities



“We took unicorns and turned them into horses on so many levels with this initiative, and it's paid off in a huge way for this university and our students, faculty, staff and community.”

SUZANNE DAVIS
President, Greenville University

