

How South Texas College of Law Houston Helped Ensure a Safe Return to Campus Amid COVID-19



CLIENT

South Texas College of Law Houston

INDUSTRY

Higher Education

SUMMARY

Higher education was faced with a pressing deadline this summer — how to bring students, faculty, and staff back to school this year. With schools across the world shut down this past spring, there was a collective challenge at hand. Safely bringing students back to the classroom for in-person learning was a top priority for schools, colleges and other institutions of higher education. And for South Texas College of Law Houston (STCL Houston), its timeline was even shorter, as administrators needed to open campus to students studying for the Texas bar exam, as well. STCL Houston decided to partner with ReturnSafe to implement both a daily health screening and a contact-tracking solution.

CHALLENGE

Implementing an automated process for daily wellness checks was a top priority for South Texas College of Law Houston. According to Stephen Alderman, vice president and general counsel, “Our No. 1 goal this summer was to determine how to keep our community safe while also providing an exceptional legal education.” STCL Houston began by surveying the law school community to determine individuals’ preferences on returning to campus, and about one-third of respondents desired to return to in-person learning for the fall 2020 semester.

SOLUTION

STCL Houston took a multifaceted approach to reopening its campus. The law school began by creating a COVID-19 'Code of Conduct' to create a sense of shared responsibility across the campus and to help motivate their students, faculty, and staff to all do their part to protect the community. Knowing that manual contact-tracing can be quite difficult, school administrators sought out technology partners to help automate the necessary preventive measures to protect their community against COVID-19. After evaluating several vendors, they chose to partner with ReturnSafe.

RESULTS

Because the STCL Houston campus is non-residential, all students, faculty, and staff are required to enter through the same point every day and will be allowed entry only if they have completed the daily health screening and received a "come to campus" recommendation. Then, using their smartphones, individuals are required to physically show their wellness "badge" to the front desk upon arrival. Leveraging technology for the purpose of contact-tracing was a significant focus for STCL Houston administrators. But, because privacy also was a concern for the community, school leaders specifically desired a solution that could track interactions without capturing individuals' locations. Because ReturnSafe's phone-based tracking operates using proximity rather than GPS coordinates, the ReturnSafe app met their expectations. With the app, close interactions may be tracked without encroaching on privacy concerns. South Texas College of Law Houston was able to reopen successfully, offering bar-prep classes and in-person instruction for the fall semester. Since the law school implemented the ReturnSafe app for entry to campus, students have expressed their satisfaction with the technology's ease of use as they self-screen each day, thereby helping to ensure the safety of the entire law school community.

ReturnSafe

ABOUT RETURNSAFE

ReturnSafe is a BioSecurity company enabling businesses, healthcare organizations and schools to prevent and rapidly respond to biological threats to keep their community safe and their doors open. Our platform provides daily health screening, exposure notification, and contact tracing case management for COVID-19 and other contagious diseases. ReturnSafe was established during the pandemic as a Public Benefit Corporation focused on purpose ahead of profit. Our founders, Tarun Nimmagadda and Jikku Venkat, and our Chief Medical Officer Dr. Reef Gillum, are successful serial entrepreneurs who are focused on providing a human-centric platform that maintains privacy and security. More than just an app, our enterprise-grade platform integrates with Identity Management, HRMS, Student Information Systems, Building Access Management, IR Cameras and Bluetooth Beacons to provide a holistic system for infectious disease management. Request a demo to see it in action.

Contact us to set up a demo of our return to work solution for your organization.



<https://returnsafe.com/>



1005 E St Elmo Rd, Bldg 1
Austin, TX 78745



+1 (512) 649 8568