



College Brief

NO. 145 July 2, 2020
FROM Louis J. Petrizzo, Interim President

Interim President's Update to the College Community Regarding SUNY Reopening Plan Approval and COVID-19 Return to Work Information for Employees



COLLEGE'S REOPENING PLAN APPROVED BY SUNY

The College has been informed by SUNY Chancellor Kristina Johnson, that its reopening plan has been approved for certification.

As mentioned in College Brief #136, issued on June 12, 2020, the College remains poised to begin a gradual reopening of its campus offices, starting with those employees who generally work on-campus during the summer months. The College's Reopening Plan provides direction for SUNY Suffolk campuses to move through the process of having our employees safely transition back to work. Please note that no specific date for this return has yet been determined, but I will inform you of the date as soon as I am able.

COLLEGE'S RETURN-TO-WORK EMPLOYEE GUIDELINES ARE NEARING COMPLETION

As we begin to emerge from New York on Pause after nearly four months of working remotely, you will have questions about returning to work. The College's Reopening Task Force is currently finalizing Employee Guidelines that link its SUNY Plan to CDC and DOH information regarding COVID-19 as it relates to employees returning to the workplace. We are prepared to welcome the members of our community back on campus through a methodical process that will keep us all safe and healthy. I will issue an electronic copy of the Return-to-Work Guidelines within the upcoming week. This will allow sufficient time for you to read through the information, become familiar with the many changes that have been put into place, and to discuss plans with your supervisor related to scheduling.

COLLEGE PLANS FOR THE FALL 2020 SEMESTER

We will deliver instruction for the fall semester in four categories:

1. Online: Content is delivered online with no required synchronous class meetings.
2. Remote, real-time live: Online "web conference style" courses meet at scheduled times and students are required to be present online as noted in their schedule.

3. Hybrid/Blended: Partially online, partially on-campus courses with scheduled in-person times with social distancing measures in place as guided by our State and local officials.
4. In-person: Small, in-person classes for courses that require hands-on experiences that must meet NYSED and accreditation requirements with courses scheduled in appropriate rooms and spaces which meet social distancing requirements.

Of the 3,400 sections the College is offering in the fall, 88% will be offered remotely with no need for enrolled students to visit any campus. Twelve-percent of our sections will require some face-to-face campus experiences, such as science labs or in-person instruction, which may be required by accrediting bodies or NYSED. Student groups in these spaces will be primarily limited to one-third of the class with groups no larger than twelve students, in accordance with space limitations and health/safety guidelines. Appropriate physical distancing between students will be required for the sections coming to campus. Small group instruction on a rotating basis will allow for reduced population density and proper physical distancing. Students and faculty will be required to wear face coverings/masks on campus.

I am grateful for the time and effort put forth by the College's Restart Task Force, which was charged with developing our institutional plan of action. I would also like to acknowledge that there were many sub-groups that assisted the Task Force members in crafting the plan, enabling us to ensure that we had a broad cross-section of individuals working collectively on this important project. The sub-groups included Plant Operations/Health & Safety/Employees, Student Affairs/Auxiliary Services, Academic Affairs, Non-credit/ESL/Workforce/High School programs, Communications, Health Services, and Libraries. I hope you will join me in thanking them for the extensive amount of effort that has been required to meet the standards and expectations from many state and local agencies.