

Suffolk County Community College

College Brief

NO. 151 May 18, 2021

TO: The College Community

FROM: Louis Petrizzo
 Interim President

SUBJECT: College to Expand Office Staffing to 75% Effective July 6th and
 Updates: Campus Access, Masking Policies, and Vaccination

Campus Access Process to Change Effective May 24th

Based on a recommendation presented by the Safe Start Task Force, a determination has been made to modify a number of procedures in an effort to relax the restrictions that have been in place since the start of the pandemic. These modifications have been approved for implementation effective May 24th and will remain in place throughout the summer, unless otherwise amended through new guidance received. In line with these modifications, the College will:

- eliminate entrance check-points for gaining access onto all campuses;
- continue to require all students and employees who will be on campus for any reason to complete the Daily Health Screening Questionnaire electronically before coming to campus and to follow advice given upon completion of the health assessment. Employees and students who do not have the technology available to successfully complete the Daily Health Screening Questionnaire before arrival on campus, will be able to complete the form upon arrival using a College computer or by completing a paper copy provided to them by their department supervisor or instructional faculty. For those completing a paper copy, lock boxes will be made available for students and staff to deposit their completed health screening form;
- maintain weekly COVID saliva pool testing throughout the summer, modified only if there is SUNY guidance changing to less frequency;
- continue to administer the Uniform Sanctions Policy in place for students attending on-campus classes until said policy is terminated by the SUNY Chancellor;
- continue to require 6 feet of social distancing inside of all buildings and continue the appropriate use of barriers such as plexiglass, consistent with current NYS and SUNY requirements;
- require use of face coverings/masks consistent with current CDC and [SUNY](#) guidelines. To ensure the ongoing health and safety of all staff and visitors alike who conduct business in person on campus, we will continue to mandate that everyone wear face coverings/masks on campus when inside buildings. In addition, barriers such as plexiglass, have been installed in College offices where individuals are likely to interact in person.

Individuals who **are fully vaccinated** against COVID-19 (i.e., those who are two weeks past their final dose of an authorized vaccine) are no longer required to wear a face covering/mask outdoors on campus while alone or in small outdoor groups and gatherings. Face

coverings/masks are still required in crowded outdoor settings and venues, when entering campus and interacting with College Public Safety Officers, as well as inside all College buildings, classrooms, labs, offices, and facilities.

Individuals who **are not fully vaccinated** must continue to use a face covering/mask while on campus any time there is a potential to be less than six feet apart from one another, including outdoors, consistent with the College's [COVID-19 Guidelines for Use of Face Coverings/Masks](#), except:

- While actively eating or drinking with appropriate physical distancing. Face coverings/masks should be put back on after eating/drinking.
- When by themselves alone.

As always, this would all be subject to further review and update if/when new guidelines are issued or clarified by the CDC, NYS, and/or SUNY. We are aware of the announcement made by Governor Cuomo on May 17 relative to NYS policy requiring face coverings/masks in indoor settings and are reviewing the impact of this announcement on our campuses and other SUNY campuses.

On-Campus Office Staffing Set to Increase to 75% Effective July 6th

Since July 2020, in line with our SUNY-approved reopening plan, the College's employees have been working on campus using a 50% staffing capacity implemented through weekly, staggered, in-person schedules. Recently, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that office capacity would increase to 75%, allowing more employees to return to work in their office locations. The College will now move toward this new capacity level.

Expanding office capacity to 75% is a welcome signal for our College and its campuses; it is a step toward operational recovery, one that eventually leads toward full reopening and full staffing at 100% capacity. **All employees should begin working with their direct supervisors to increase the number of days per week they are on campus in their workspace.** In general, supervisors will begin to implement staggered work schedules that alternate days in the office so half of the staff works three days one week and four days the following week, with remaining staff members working opposite staggered schedules (four days one week and three days the following week).

We should all take this action with confidence. Throughout the entire pandemic, the College has consistently experienced low positivity rates and no major outbreaks—even with many individuals transiting our campuses. In order to maintain this standard, we will still require everyone to maintain 6 feet of social distancing, and daily monitoring of personal health—if you are sick or feel sick, stay home. Please be aware that our campuses will continue to serve as vaccination sites at least through June, and we will be hosting on-campus tours for potential students, as well as arena days later this summer.

Vaccination

Last week, the Governor also announced that all SUNY and CUNY students returning to in-person classes for the fall 2021 semester must be fully vaccinated. The guidance for implementation of this announced action has not yet been received, but is contingent on final FDA approval of these vaccines, which are currently being administered under an “emergency use” authorization. In any event, the College is developing a process for verifying student vaccinations. We are also anticipating that our policy will need to include exemptions for medical or religious reasons.

While vaccination of faculty and staff is not mandatory, it is being encouraged at this time. Being vaccinated serves to enhance the overall health and safety of our entire community. More detailed information on this topic will be shared as it becomes available. You should make an effort to frequently check your email for updates on this topic.

Any questions or concerns regarding scheduling should be directed to your supervisor.