

Suffolk County Community College

College Brief

NO. 63 January 13, 2021

TO: The College Community

FROM: Angelica Rivera, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources

SUBJECT: Mandatory Pooled Saliva Testing for College Faculty and Staff – Spring 2021

As previously shared with the College community in College Brief #35 (issued on November 20, 2020), the College worked with its collective bargaining unit leadership to reach a Memorandum of Agreement to implement mandatory pooled saliva testing for all on-campus faculty, staff and administrators. As we prepare to welcome some students back onto campus for the spring semester, this Brief is being issued to update you on our spring testing plans. All individuals on campus for the spring semester must participate in a pooled saliva screening at a campus test center within five days of returning to campus for the spring semester.

A campus-specific spring 2021 COVID-19 pooled saliva testing schedule has been developed. The schedule reflects the College’s plan, developed in accordance with SUNY requirements, to test all on-campus faculty, staff, administrators and students five times between January and May—once per month. The calendar for upcoming employee testing dates (February – May 2021), will be provided in future College Briefs, to assist you with meeting this five-test requirement.

All on-campus employees are required to complete their initial January pooled saliva test prior to January 28, 2021. The calendar below reflects the testing options available for on-campus faculty and staff to complete their required January pooled saliva test. Please remember that all employees must coordinate their testing schedule with their immediate supervisor; testing is expected to take place on work time and only on the days you are scheduled to be on site.

Campus	January 2021 - Testing Dates and Times	Testing Location
Michael J. Grant	Wednesday, January 13: 9 AM - 4:45 PM Thursday, January 14: 9 AM – 5:45 PM Saturday, January 16: 9 AM – 11:45 AM Tuesday, January 19: 9 AM - 4:45 PM Wednesday, January 20: 9 AM - 4:45 PM Thursday, January 21: 9 AM – 5:45 PM Saturday, January 23: 9 AM – 11:45 AM Tuesday, January 26: 9 AM - 4:45 PM Wednesday, January 27: 9 AM - 4:45 PM Thursday, January 28: 9 AM – 5:45 PM	Captree Commons Cafeteria
Ammerman	Wednesday, January 13: 9 AM - 4:45 PM Thursday, January 14: 9 AM – 5:45 PM Saturday, January 16: 9 AM – 11:45 AM Tuesday, January 19: 9 AM - 4:45 PM Wednesday, January 20: 9 AM - 4:45 PM Thursday, January 21: 9 AM – 5:45 PM	Babylon Student Center - second floor

	Saturday, January 23: 9 AM – 11:45 AM Tuesday, January 26: 9 AM - 4:45 PM Wednesday, January 27: 9 AM - 4:45 PM Thursday, January 28: 9 AM – 5:45 PM	
Eastern	Wednesday, January 13: 9 AM - 4:45 PM Thursday, January 14: 9 AM – 5:45 PM Saturday, January 16: 9 AM – 11:45 AM Tuesday, January 19: 9 AM - 4:45 PM Wednesday, January 20: 9 AM - 4:45 PM Thursday, January 21: 9 AM – 5:45 PM Saturday, January 23: 9 AM – 11:45 AM Tuesday, January 26: 9 AM - 4:45 PM Wednesday, January 27: 9 AM - 4:45 PM Thursday, January 28: 9 AM – 5:45 PM	Montaukett Learning Resource Center

Important Steps Before Testing

- Before being tested, all test participants will need to register at the SUNY website (suny-covid-test.com) that has been established for this purpose. As part of the registration, each registrant will establish a private password, provide demographic information, contact information, and health insurance information. It is necessary to gather health insurance information so that if a test group pool comes back as COVID-19 positive, SUNY Upstate Medical will be able to proceed with testing the individual saliva swabs that were collected, enabling those in the cohort to receive individual results within a few days.

Important Steps The Day of Testing

- Do not eat or drink anything, including chewing gum, mints or lozenges, within 30 minutes of reporting to the saliva testing collection site.
- Abstain from smoking, vaping, or using smokeless tobacco products for 30 minutes prior to the test.
- Do not brush your teeth or use mouthwash within three hours of reporting to the saliva testing collection site.

The Testing Process

The testing process will work as follows:

1. Every participant will need to pre-register at the SUNY website (suny-covid-test.com) before their scheduled test. Step 1 of the registration form must be completed before arriving for the test. The remaining portion of the registration will be completed at the test location, including registering the specific test kit. This semester, we will also eliminate processing participants by hand and will now use technology to monitor employee participation.
2. Every participant can only be tested in one pooled group.
3. Individuals administer the test to themselves, swabbing their cheeks for 10 or 15 seconds, and providing the saliva samples to a healthcare representative at the testing collection site.
4. On each of our three campuses, the pooled testing operations will be coordinated by the College-wide Associate Dean of the School of Nursing, thereby ensuring that procedures and protocols are properly followed, staff is properly trained, and privacy and confidentiality are maintained.

5. The individual samples will be combined into one batch that will be sent to SUNY Upstate Medical where it is tested for SARS-CoV-2 virus.
6. A negative test for the pool means that all individuals in the pool sample are presumed at the time to be coronavirus-free. If you are not contacted by the College within 7 days, your pool did not test positive. Participants who test “negative” will not be contacted further.
7. A positive test for the pool would mean each individual saliva sample within the pool will be further tested to pinpoint exact positive case(s) from the pool. Individual employees who test positive, will be contacted by Human Resources or the College’s contact tracing team, within 7 days of testing, regarding follow-up and next steps. It is important that all employees make sure that their phone number(s) and email are accurate on the SUNY testing registration, as this is the information that the College and the Suffolk County Department of Health will use for contact tracing purposes.

Testing Q & A

QUESTION #1 I am eligible and have already received a COVID-19 vaccination. Do I still need to test?

- A. Yes. Please note that, according to the CDC, individuals who have been vaccinated are more likely to experience a less severe reaction if they contract the virus following vaccination.

QUESTION #2 Can I test positive for COVID-19 after recovering from the virus?

- A. According to the CDC, the protection someone gains from having an infection (called natural immunity) varies depending on the virus, and it varies from person to person. Since this virus is new, public health authorities do not know how long natural immunity might last. Current evidence suggests that reinfection with the virus that causes COVID-19 is uncommon in the 90 days after initial infection.

QUESTION #3 If I tested positive for the virus within the past three months, do I still need to test?

- A. Yes you will need to continue to participate in the pooled saliva testing. Please contact Human Resources to discuss your testing schedule.

If you have additional questions, they should be directed to AVPHR@sunysuffolk.edu or (631) 451-4239.

Please note that as the pandemic continues to evolve, this information remains subject to change in order to reflect new information, guidance and/or direction that is received.