

**SUNY Suffolk  
Plan for Winding Down  
Fall 2020 Semester  
AMENDED**

**November 11, 2020**

SUNY Suffolk takes seriously its responsibility for the health and safety of the College's faculty, staff and students, and also for the communities within which our campuses reside.

As we continue to conduct a very limited number of on-campus classes and activities; as we continue to conduct COVID-19 Pooled Surveillance Testing based on our SUNY approved plan for each of our three campuses; and in response to the SUNY Chancellor's recent mandate to develop and implement a fall semester wind-down plan, we present this document which outlines the steps we will take to ensure the safe wind-down of fall semester on-campus activities and, to the maximum extent possible, continue to avoid community spread when our on-campus instruction ceases on December 23, 2020.

**1. Mandatory Testing of Students.**

SUNY Suffolk is not a residential college. All students are commuters. Over the entirety of the fall semester our students have traveled out of our campus daily into their communities and to their homes and families. One of the most effective decisions we have made over the last few months is to participate in SUNY's COVID-19 Pooled Surveillance Testing Plan offered by SUNY Upstate. This decision allows us to regularly monitor the health of our students and participating employees to ensure the virus is not spreading on our campuses and into our communities.

As a three-campus, non-residential college we have a maximum daily total population of approximately 585 students across all campuses at any one time. This number of students per campus is:

- 149 students on the Grant Campus;
- 67 students on the Eastern Campus;
- 369 students on the Ammerman campus.

As approved, the College continues to pool test a sample of approximately 500 students each week from our on-campus student population across the three campuses. This is intended to allow for testing of each student in our on-campus student population 3 times this semester, though some students in this population may only be on campus once during the semester.

On each of our three campuses, the pooled testing operations are coordinated by the college-wide Associate Dean of the School of Nursing, ensuring that procedures and protocols are properly followed and staff is properly trained. The testing team received training and receives appropriate supervision under the direction of the College Associate Dean of the School of Nursing in accordance with the SUNY Upstate's pooled testing procedures.

The President's Chief of Staff is the liaison to SUNY Upstate for supplies and transportation of samples; and is our official liaison to the Suffolk County Department of Health for results and follow-up communication protocols.

During the week of September 20, 2020, all students attending on-campus courses or activities this fall semester were scheduled for three individual appointments for on-campus COVID-19 Saliva Pool testing. Per our approved testing plan, the three tests were scheduled across the course of our students' schedules on campuses with the very last test session scheduled for December 9. These testing appointments were communicated to all students through their SUNY Suffolk email. On each day of testing, students are required to check-in and a record of their attendance is made.

Students who did not attend their first scheduled test nor provide evidence of an external COVID-19 test were warned of potential restriction on their access to campus and sanctions. If these students did/do not respond immediately by attending an alternate on-campus testing appointment sent to them or do not provide acceptable external testing results permitted by our approved plan, they were/are not allowed on-campus for classes or activities per the Uniform Sanctioning in Response to COVID-19 Violations Policy that is in effect as of October 1, 2020 SUNY-wide. Students who have had their access to campus restricted for failure to attend scheduled testing appointments are informed that they can reinstate their access by participating in our testing program.

### **Pre-Thanksgiving Testing**

The College's remote and limited in-person instruction continues through Tuesday, November 24, 2020. No classes are held from Wednesday, November 25 through Sunday, November 29. Classes resume on Monday, November 30, again with limited in-person instruction but largely (89%) remote instruction, pursuant to our approved Reopening Plan.

College-wide, we have already held scheduled pooled surveillance testing dates on November 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7. We have scheduled additional pooled surveillance testing dates on November 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 23. All on-campus students will be directed to attend a surveillance testing date between November 16 and 23 to assist with meeting the mandate to test all on-campus students within the 10-day window preceding the Thanksgiving break. We have a scheduled test date across all campuses on Monday, November 30, December 1, and December 2 to which to direct those students who, with sufficient excuse, were not able to attend a test between November 16 and 23, before restricting their access to campus and/or disciplinary sanctions are brought against them.

There will be another communication to all employees encouraging them to participate in the testing prior to Thanksgiving as well.

### **End-of-Semester Testing**

We are a commuter school, with no students living on campus, and our students are returning home and to/from their communities each day throughout the semester. In addition to our scheduled Round 3 surveillance testing dates in late November and early December, we are adding another week of testing, December 12 – 18, to assist in meeting the mandate that on-campus students are tested before leaving for the winter recess and to meet the requirement for SUNY's Testing Policy for Departing Campus in Fall 2020.

There will be another communication to all employees encouraging them to participate in the testing prior to the winter recess period as well.

We continue to implement the other risk mitigation strategies outlined in Section 7 below to successfully reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 on our campus to both our on-campus community and our external community.

## **2. Exceptions to participation in the COVID-19 Pooled Surveillance Testing Requirement.**

We have exempted from testing all fully remote students.

We have also exempted students providing acceptable documentation to our college's Registered Nurses of a COVID-19 diagnostic test result within the 10-day period of their test dates. The parameters of substitution of outside test results are outlined in more detail in our prior proposal to SUNY regarding the same (please see attached).

## **3. Testing of Employees.**

We recommended that faculty and staff get a COVID-19 Pooled Surveillance Test during the testing dates and times on each of our campuses. We are preparing a follow-up announcement for the first week of November to encourage employees to test at any of our three test locations through December 9. We also continue to recommend individual external testing to our employees who believe they have been in contact with confirmed or suspected cases or who are symptomatic.

## **4. Continuation of Comprehensive Testing.**

As noted above, we have a frequent and comprehensive testing program in place (the COVID-19 Pooled Surveillance Testing program) for students, faculty and staff on each of our three campuses.

We will continue our approved testing program and add testing dates through December 18 to meet the requirements of the safe wind-down plan.

## **5. Quarantine and Isolation.**

When any of our students (all non-residential) or employees test positive for COVID-19, notification will be sent to them to self-isolate for the mandatory period by the Suffolk County Department of Health (SCDOH) or the NYS contact tracing team, consistent with CDC, NYSDOH, and SCDOH guidelines. We inform the individual of the expectation that they self-isolate as well when they test positive through our surveillance testing or self-identify to us as having tested positive through an external test, and we work with SCDOH to ensure they are aware of the case and to identify potential campus contacts for quarantine. When any of our students or employees have been identified as close or proximate contacts of COVID-19 cases, we inform them of the expectation that they complete the required 14-day quarantine period, and we coordinate with SCDOH to ensure awareness and appropriate follow-up. We err on the side of caution with respect to limiting individuals' access to campus while cases and potential contacts are under SCDOH investigation. All quarantine and isolation decisions are made by the SCDOH with a determination of the length of isolation/quarantine and release protocols.

## **6. Scheduling Options to Consider.**

Our COVID-19 Pooled Surveillance Testing program has scheduled the last day of our third round of tests for our students within 14 days of the end of the semester.

## **7. Emphasis of Safety Protocols.**

In compliance with our approved Re-Opening Plans, all students, faculty and staff on campuses are required to follow the reasonable requirements outlined in our approved reopening plan and approved surveillance testing plan, including wearing masks/face coverings, hand washing protocols, physical/social distancing, presenting for COVID-19 testing, filling out daily health screening questionnaires before arrival on campus, reporting positive COVID-19 test results, and following all directives of state health officials. All students are advised to review our policies and guidelines at: [COVID-19 Return to Campus Student Guidelines](#). Over the next eight weeks, through campus communication pieces, we shall continue to explicitly encourage our students and employees to continue to practice such precautionary measures especially during the Thanksgiving holiday break and between semesters.