



State University of New York COVID-19 Guidance for the Spring 2022 Semester

(Revised 2/22/22)

As a matter of course, we are continuing to set the conditions that allow us to return as close as we can to pre-pandemic campus activity. The SUNY community has done an extraordinary job over the course of the pandemic, but now more than ever we must maintain our diligence in order to protect and advance our robust academic and residential experiences for our students. The virus continues to evolve, and with that we too must evolve and adapt our guidance and flexibility.

These updated protocols are subject to change as COVID-related conditions develop. In addition, nothing herein limits the authority of campuses to impose additional COVID restrictions within its current authority if not enumerated in the following guidance. Campuses must continue to comply with any additional requirements imposed by the State, SUNY, and local health departments.

Spring Semester:

I. VACCINE AND BOOSTER POLICY

- a. The SUNY Student Vaccine Policy continues to require all students to provide evidence of vaccination. Campuses must continue to review medical or religious exemption requests for any new students but may designate deadlines by which the students must submit any requests. The SUNY Student COVID-19 Vaccine Policy remains in effect for the Spring '22 semester. Pursuant to the Policy, students are considered fully vaccinated for the initial course of vaccination: (1) two weeks after receiving the second dose in a two dose COVID-19 vaccine series or (2) two weeks after receiving a single dose COVID-19 vaccine.
- b. In addition to the initial course of vaccination, any student with a regular on campus presence (i.e., not fully remote for the semester) who is eligible for a booster shot must receive one for the Spring '22 semester. Campuses must develop a plan for students to provide proof of booster vaccination. Proof must be provided by each student by the later of (1) one month from the effective date of this guidance or (2) one month from the date such student became eligible to receive a booster. Campuses may set an earlier deadline.
- c. Campuses will continue to strongly urge boosters for all faculty and staff and work with local providers and county health departments to sponsor booster clinics where possible.
- d. Students enrolled in any program or course or who are participating in a clinical or internship held at a third-party location, must continue to comply with all health and safety guidelines, including any vaccination or testing protocols that are in place at the third-party location.

II. RETURN TO CAMPUS TESTING

- a. Campuses must develop a plan to test all students, regardless of vaccination status, who will have a regular physical presence on campus upon return for the spring semester.

- b. Campuses may require a negative PCR test within 72 hours of initial arrival on campus. If using a rapid test, students can provide a negative result that was taken within the prior 6 hours. Campuses may directly administer testing or may establish protocols to receive test results administered at home or at an off-campus facility.
- c. SUNY System will distribute to campuses a list of tests/assays that have been determined to be accurate in detecting for the Omicron variant. This requirement will also take into consideration any known supply chain issues.

III. MASKS & SOCIAL DISTANCING (*revised*)

- a. All campuses will continue to enforce on-campus universal indoor masking of everyone, regardless of vaccination status, until further notice or until the State modifies any mask requirement. Beginning February 15, 2022 and as a result of the State's announcement that masks can be lifted at State owned or operated facilities, campuses may consider lifting the indoor mask mandate by consulting with their local health department and assessing the COVID transmission rate on their campus and in the surrounding community. Such assessment should include an evaluation of CDC guidance and any metrics that exist at that time. Campuses should also assess and consider their campus vaccination and booster rates. All decisions to change or lift the mask mandate entirely must be made in consultation with the local health department and notification of such decision must be sent to Valerie Dent at SUNY System (valerie.dent@suny.edu) and include the specific justification for the decision. Campuses may continue to maintain the mask requirement in any venue or with any specific population on campus at their own discretion without consultation with the local health department. If it is determined that any element of the mask mandate will be changed, it must be clearly communicated with students and employees.
- b. As outlined in Section I, all students who are eligible to receive a booster must receive one. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated, including those who have been granted a medical or religious exemption, or those who are now eligible for a booster and have not received one, are required to continue to wear masks on campus and should, where practical, continue to observe social distancing in indoor settings, such as instructional space (e.g., classrooms, laboratories, studios).
- c. Any campus that chooses to modify the mask mandate must have a clear plan in place for actions they will take in the event that cases in the community or on campus begin to increase.
- d. For instruction delivered at a third-party location, students, faculty, and staff need to follow the masking requirements at that location.

IV. SURVEILLANCE TESTING

- a. Mandatory weekly testing will continue for anyone with a physical presence on campus who has a campus approved medical or religious exemption or for any employee who has not provided proof of vaccination.
- b. Campuses must implement a regular surveillance testing program of all individuals, regardless of vaccination status. Each person with a regular physical presence on campus should be tested on a regular basis as determined by each campus by using an appropriate sampling methodology. Campuses may implement an exemption process for those who have received a booster.

V. *DAILY HEALTH SCREENING*

- a. Though required daily health screenings are left to the discretion of campuses, everyone should continue to monitor their symptoms, stay away from others if they feel sick, and get tested if they have any symptoms.

VI. *QUARANTINE & ISOLATION*

- a. Campuses will plan to maintain a reasonable portion of residence hall rooms or have access to space off campus for quarantine and isolation use. CDC Guidance indicates that fully vaccinated individuals who are exposed to COVID-19 do not have to quarantine unless they are symptomatic. Campuses will continue to work with their local health departments regarding current State policies and practices.

VII. *PIVOT TO REMOTE INSTRUCTION OR ACTIVITY*

- a. At this time, the New York State Department of Health (DOH) requirements for a mandatory pause are no longer in effect. Campuses will continue to monitor local conditions and must obtain approval from SUNY System Administration in order to change to a virtual or remote format for academic instruction, delay the start of the semester, modify spring break, or delay or change the format of commencement activities.

VIII. *ONGOING DATA COLLECTION*

- a. SUNY System Administration has built two solutions through which campuses report the vaccination status of their students. Campuses may opt to use the campus-to-System interconnection or a student-facing portal. By January 3, 2022, campuses are required to report the vaccine status, including exemption status, of all enrolled students, including those who will be fully remote for the semester, via one of these reporting options.
- b. Campuses must continue to report all testing results daily through the SUNY Health Portal but can pre-fill entries for days when no testing is done or is anticipated to be done.
- c. Any incidents of non-compliance with campus required testing will continue to be handled through the individual Campus Code of Conduct for students and Human Resources for employees.