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SUNY Testing Policy for Departing Campus in Fall 2020

SUNY takes seriously its responsibility for the health and safety of the system's faculty, staff and students, and also for the communities within which its campuses reside. Further, we recognize that as the semester comes to a close, those affiliated with SUNY may be traveling, and we want to ensure that such travel is done in a manner that is safe for all communities. To that end, and out of abundance of caution, we are today implementing a new testing policy for departing campus in the Fall, 2020.

Working alongside their local health department, campuses must create and submit to SUNY System Administration no later than **November 5th, 2020** a plan outlining the steps to be taken to ensure the safe wind-down of Fall semester on-campus activities and to avoid community spread to the maximum extent possible, when all on-campus instruction ceases, as described below.

1. **Mandatory Testing of Students.** All students taking at least one class on campus, utilizing services on campus (e.g. library, gym, dining), or working on campus must receive a COVID-19 test within 10-days prior to the campus closing on-campus instruction and services (hereafter "fall closing"). For the purposes of this section, an antibody test would not suffice.
2. **Exceptions.** The following students may be exempted from the mandatory testing required in paragraph 1:
 - a. Non-residential students not taking any classes on campus nor utilizing any in-person campus services (e.g. library, gym, dining)—i.e. fully remote students.
 - b. Students providing documentation to the campus of a COVID-19 diagnostic result within the 10-day period.
 - c. Students providing documentation to the campus of a previous positive COVID-19 diagnostic result.
3. **Testing of Faculty and Staff.** We strongly recommend faculty and staff get a test during the same period pursuant to the testing MOUs between the Chancellor and UUP, PEF, CSEA, and the PBA.

4. **Continuation of Comprehensive Testing.** If a campus already has in place a more frequent and comprehensive testing program – such as weekly pooled saliva testing for all individuals with business on campus – then that extant policy remains in effect subject to approval by System Administration.
5. **Quarantine and Isolation.** Campuses must make plans to isolate/quarantine any residential student who tests positive for COVID-19 or has been exposed to COVID-19 within 14-days before the fall closing and follow the guidance of the local county health department for the length of isolation/quarantine and release protocols. Colleges are required to be fully attendant to students who are quarantined or isolated on campus. Any non-residential student, faculty or staff who tests positive for COVID-19 or has been exposed to COVID-19, within 14-days before the fall closing must follow the guidance of the local county health department on the length of isolation/quarantine and release protocols.
6. **Scheduling Options to Consider.** To the extent possible, and to limit potential exposure, campuses should schedule a test as close to the student’s departure date, which incorporates the time necessary to receive a test result. The campus may also consider allowing residential students to leave campus as soon as they receive a negative test in consultation with their local health department. Furthermore, a campus in consultation with their local health department may consider ceasing all in-person activity and imposing restricted activities for five (5) days, testing students and then allowing them to leave the campus immediately if the COVID-19 test result is negative or presumed negative.
7. **Emphasis of Safety Protocols.** In any case, campuses should reinforce to students that they should limit contact, wear masks, and practice social distancing upon taking their COVID-19 test and departure in order to avoid any potential exposure, and explicitly encourage them to continue to practice such precautionary measures even when they have departed from campus in the time between semesters.

Policy Development, Review, and Approval

The policy was reviewed and approved by public health experts including:

- Dr. David R. Holtgrave, Dean, School of Public Health, University at Albany
- Dr. Christopher Morley, Chair, Department of Public Health & Preventative Medicine, Upstate Medical University
- Dr. Eli Rosenberg, Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, University at Albany
- Dr. Stephen Thomas, Chief of Infectious Disease, Upstate Medical University

