

What Students Should Know: COVID-19 and Returning to Campus

As we return to campus in Spring 2021, Nassau Community College's ("NCC") first priority is the health and safety of our campus community, including all students, faculty, and staff. The best way to maintain the safest environment possible throughout 2021 and beyond is for each of us to take steps to minimize the risks, not only for ourselves, but for all members of the NCC community. This includes:

- wearing face coverings (masks)
- hand washing
- social distancing
- participating in testing and tracing
- completing daily screenings
- being mindful of our surroundings and the impact we have

Any of us alone can spread this disease and cause harm to others. But **all of us together can build a community that is safe and healthy**, where educational success is possible.

Here's what you need to know and do as SUNY and Nassau Community College welcome students back to campus in 2021:

I. Stay Informed

- An updated "Student Guide for Returning to Campus for Spring 2021" will be distributed to students prior to the Spring re-opening that outlines the College's safety protocols and expectations for the NCC community including all the above requirements. Students are expected to fully comply with the updated Guide. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action up to and including permanent suspension from the College.
- The NCC Next website features COVID-19 related information, including surveillance testing schedules, hours of operation for campus services, cleaning protocols, and resources for learning.
- Students may also be contacted via email or text message regarding COVID-19 related information.
- We encourage the NCC community to view the [SUNY Tracker](#) for the most up to date COVID-19 case information pertaining to the College.

II. Return to Campus Safely

The following students **MUST** complete the mandatory health and safety protocols listed below:

- Students enrolled in face-to-face courses
- Students working on campus
- Student athletes (will receive specific instructions from the Director of Athletics regarding the below requirements)
- Students using on-campus resources, on a weekly basis, for the facilitation of their academic courses (computer, internet or study space access)

1. Screening Questionnaire

- Must fill out the Screening Questionnaire located in the MyNCC mobile app and the MyNCC Portal.
- Screening Questionnaire must be completed every day, for 14 days, prior to returning to campus
- Example:

- Date your face-to-face classes begin Complete Screening Questionnaire (daily)
- January 19, 2021 January 5 - January 19, 2021
- February 1, 2021 January 18 – February 1, 2021f
- Screening must be completed throughout the semester. Please see section III below.

2. Quarantine

- Students must Quarantine for seven (7) days before returning to campus
- Must submit the Verification of Quarantine form one time only. The form will be available through the MyNCC mobile app and the MyNCC Portal.
- Exemptions:
 - Students who are employed outside of campus may continue working but are expected to stay away from all others who are not members of their household when they are not at work. In addition, these students must submit to the Student Health Office the name and COVID safety protocols of their employer. This information must be submitted on the Verification of Quarantine form.

3. COVID-19 Test Confirmation (must do one of the following)

- **Option 1:** Take a COVID -19 test (RT-PCR or rapid antigen) within three (3) days of returning to campus
- Submit test results to HealthOffice@ncc.edu within one week of returning to campus
- If test results are positive DO NOT COME TO CAMPUS. Please notify HealthOffice@ncc.edu.
- OR**
- **Option 2:** Submit documentation of a positive diagnostic result for COVID-19 from the prior three (3)-month period
- Submit test results to HealthOffice@ncc.edu within one week of returning of campus.
- OR**
- **Option 3:** Obtain free Surveillance Test (COVID-19 test) at NCC-Life Sciences Building, Room 122 and 123
- Surveillance Testing must be completed within five (5) days after returning to campus.
- [Testing Schedule located here.](#)
- Testing must also be completed throughout the semester. Please see section III below.

III. Screening and Testing throughout the Semester:

1. Daily Screening

- Applicable to all students coming to campus.
- For students not registered for F2F classes, screening must be completed at entrance points to College facilities, such as the Library, the Student Services Center, etc.
- Additionally, if you have traveled out-of-state or internationally, you will be subjected to a mandatory 14-day quarantine, unless you “test out” of the quarantine early, pursuant to the [New York State Travel Advisory](#). Please see the Spring 2021 Student Guide for Returning to Campus for further information.
- If you answer “YES” to any of the screening questions, please do not come to campus and begin isolation or quarantine. Your COVID-19 screening results will automatically be sent to the Student Health Office. **You should expect a follow up call and/or email** from the Student Health Office, to obtain further information from you and provide you with guidance.

2. Regular Testing

- Pursuant to SUNY’s Mandatory COVID-19 Testing Program, NCC will resume its Surveillance Testing for the Spring 2021 semester on January 19th, 2021.
- Testing is located in our LIFE SCIENCES BUILDING in rooms 122 and 123.
- All students taking at least one class on campus, students working on campus, student athletes, and students utilizing on-campus resources, on a weekly basis, for the facilitation of their academic courses (computer, internet or study space access) **MUST** participate in surveillance testing.
- Testing will be required twice a month, or once every two (2) weeks.
- Students will receive regular notifications and/or reminders via email about the testing protocol.

Testing will take place Monday-Friday at the following times. **Please note times are subject to change.**

NCC Covid-19 On Campus Testing Schedule				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11 a.m. – 6 p.m.	11 a.m. – 6 p.m.	11 a.m. – 6 p.m.	11 a.m. – 6 p.m.	3 – 6 p.m.

IV. Check the COVID-19 Dashboard

SUNY maintains a comprehensive dashboard of COVID-19 testing and infection rate status across the system and at each campus. <https://www.suny.edu/covid19-tracker/>.

V. Be Responsible – It’s Easy to Do Your Part

Each of us can take small steps to protect ourselves and the campus community. Because COVID-19 is highly contagious, these simple measures apply **both on and off-campus**:

1. **Wear face coverings** (masks) at all times on campus, including in classrooms, conference rooms and other public spaces, even when you are able to maintain six feet of social distancing.
 - Exceptions to this requirement include when students are (1) in their private residential or personal space or (2) eating meals on-campus while seated and socially distanced.
2. **Regularly wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and use hand sanitizer where soap and water are not available.
3. **Stay home when you are sick** or have potentially been exposed to COVID-19.
4. **Practice social distancing** at all times to reduce transmission.

VI. If Exposed, Complete Mandatory Quarantine and Isolation

Students who test positive for COVID-19, are awaiting test results for COVID-19, have been exposed to individuals who tested positive for COVID-19, or are informed by a state or local health department, or medical or campus official that they are “at risk” for exposure to COVID-19 may be required to quarantine or isolate. This may include taking classes remotely, and not going to dining halls and other campus facilities. The campus has specific information about restrictions that may be found on the [NCC Next website](#). Students identified for quarantine and isolation may receive psychosocial, academic and/or other support, as needed.

VII. Follow the Rules or Face Disciplinary Action

When the campus learns of a violation of the rules associated with COVID-19 safety, students may lose access to campus facilities. Other disciplinary actions may also be taken by the Dean of Students Office. Minimum sanctions for COVID-19 related violations are outlined in the [Uniform Sanctioning in Response to COVID-19 Student Violations](#). Consistent with SUNY policy, students who are partially or completely suspended from instruction due to a COVID-19 conduct violation are not eligible for refunds.

VIII. Take Care of Yourself – Physically and Mentally

We understand that this is an exceptionally challenging time. SUNY has resources to help you get the support you need.

1. On-Campus:

- The NCC [Psychological Counseling Center](#) offers students psychological assessment, counseling, crisis intervention and referrals. All services are offered at no cost.
 - Psychological Counselors are available to provide services remotely to students in need.
 - The Coronavirus epidemic has forced students to make rapid changes to their lives which may be extremely stressful. The unknown and lack of predictability of our circumstances is leaving many anxious.
 - Should you require psychological support, we encourage you to make an appointment: 516.572.7698.
- The [Center for Veteran Affairs](#) at Nassau Community College offers support services to our student veterans, including counseling referrals, assistance with applying for financial aid and other related services. For more information or to schedule a remote appointment please email veterans@ncc.edu.
- [The Nest](#) is a free-choice food pantry that distributes food and basic necessities to those experiencing food insecurity and hunger. For more information or to make an appointment: foodinthenest@gmail.com or 516.572.0602

2. Off-Campus:

- The NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) Emotional Support Helpline provides free and confidential support, helping callers experiencing increased anxiety due to the coronavirus emergency. The Helpline is staffed by volunteers, including mental health professionals, who have received training in crisis counseling. Emotional Support Helpline: 1-844-863-9314
- Nassau County Coronavirus Hotline: **1-516-227-9570 (Monday-Friday 9am-4:45pm)**
- Nassau County Crisis Helpline: **1-516-227-TALK (1-516-227-8255) (24/7)**
- New York State Office of Mental Health Crisis Text Line: **Text GOT5 to 741741** - Available for anyone experiencing a mental health or addiction crisis.
- Suicide Prevention Training available here: <https://qprinstitute.com/>
- The [Safe Center LI](#) offers a broad spectrum of services from counseling to housing, from advocacy to referrals, etc., through a highly trained, nurturing and compassionate staff of professionals well qualified to provide the highest level of services to enhance the recovery of trauma victims and their non-offending family members. The Safe Center LI cautions that if you feel your internet usage might be monitored, click the Safety Exit on the right to quickly leave the page you are on, or instead call the hotline listed below. [The Safe Center LI: 1-516-542-0404](#)
- [Headspace](#) is partnered with New York States and designed to help you find some time and space. This special collection of meditation, sleep, and movement exercises are here to support you through stressful and challenging times. Helping you stay strong and be kind to yourselves, with a New York State of Mind.

3. Additional Resources:

- [ReachOut SUNY: https://online.suny.edu/covid19/students/local-state-and-national-resources/](https://online.suny.edu/covid19/students/local-state-and-national-resources/).
- Thriving Campus: <https://www.thrivingcampus.com/>.
- Middle Earth from the University at Albany: <https://www.albany.edu/counselingcenter/middle-earth.php>.

IX. Understand What’s Being Offered On-Campus and Online

For Spring 2021, Nassau Community College will offer courses in a variety of instructional modes including face-to-face, online and remote. Courses that must be offered in a face-to-face mode due to accreditation and/or certifying agency requirements will indeed be conducted face-to-face. Courses that require that students have access to specific equipment, supplies, and/or materials (e.g., art, biology, chemistry, health sciences, theater/dance, etc.) in order to be successful will also be conducted in the face-to-face mode. Information on form of instruction will be located in the course descriptions upon registering. Barring unforeseen circumstances, NCC plans to offer 11% percent of courses in a face-to-face format.

X. Get Instructional and Technology Help

NCC offers instructional and technological help to all students, including resources for Office 365, Desktop applications, Blackboard support, NCC Helpdesk for technical support, and SUNY resources for online learning. All resources can be found [here](#).

XI. Request Accommodations for Disabilities

Students who wish to disclose covered disabilities and receive reasonable accommodations for their disabilities should contact the [Center for Students with Disabilities](#) at csdoffice@ncc.edu or 516-572-7241. To request an accommodation, students must complete the [Application for CSD Services](#).

XII. Follow Housing and Dining Updates

Campus food service locations remain closed. NCC has, however, reopened our campus Bookstore which offers limited food and beverage service. In addition, new “Smart Market” vending machine kiosks will be installed in our College Center Building in February. This more robust vending system will give students a wider variety of foods and beverages than is typically found in traditional vending machines. Options offered will include fresh “grab and go” meals.

All students should also be made aware of [The Nest](#), a free-choice food pantry that distributes food and basic necessities to those experiencing food insecurity and hunger. For more information or to make an appointment: foodinthenest@gmail.com or 516.572.0602

XIII. If We Have to PAUSE, Follow These Rules

If the campus must switch to a two (2) week (or longer) pause, the following rules apply:

1. NCC will follow guidance from State and local Department of Health (“DOH”) and the Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) for pausing for on-campus learning.
2. Students will be notified via email and text message of any school closures. Students will not be allowed on campus for any reason and are urged to follow all local and State guidelines regarding COVID-19 response efforts, including stay-at-home or quarantine orders.

3. No gatherings of any kind will be allowed on campus.
4. Students will remain fully remote during this time (Please see “Pivot to Remote Instruction”, below).
5. NCC will await approval from State and local DOH before re-opening and allowing students back on campus. NCC will update the campus community with any information as it applies to returning to campus.
6. Students are to avoid all non-essential travel.
7. Students are to notify the Student Health Office of any COVID-19 testing done during the “pause”. On-campus surveillance testing will be halted during the pause and students should not come to campus to be tested.
8. Any questions can be directed to healthoffice@ncc.edu

XIV. If We Have to Pivot to Remote Instruction, Follow This Plan

If the campus is required to go entirely online/remote, the campus will notify students of several modifications in regards to instructional plans, including, but not limited to:

1. Delaying on-campus hands-on activities and/or replacing them with virtual activities.
2. Replacing clinical activities with virtual simulation activities with prior approval from the accrediting and certifying agencies.
3. Replacing hands-on lab assignments with pre-purchased kits to conduct the same activities from a home setting (e.g., chemistry kits, health science model loaners, etc.).
4. Offering “Incompletes” for those accrediting and certifying agency required activities (e.g., clinical patient care) that must be performed in a face-to-face environment until arrangements can be made to satisfy these requirements when the face-to-face restrictions for that course are lifted.

More information can be found on the [NCC Next](#) website.

XV. Changes and Updates:

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic creates a fluid situation that may require unexpected changes in the College’s response. Developments in scientific knowledge, public health guidance, or laws and regulations may mean SUNY and NCC have to make changes to institutional rules and procedures, including those indicated above. SUNY and NCC will try to minimize these changes and their impact on our students. We will keep you informed of new developments.

Thank you in advance for everything you are doing and will do to make 2021 safe for you, your fellow students, and the campus community and beyond.