

## **SUNY Adirondack Fall 2020 COVID 19 Surveillance Testing Plan**

*Updated on October 5, 2020*

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**UPDATE:** In an abundance of caution and within the limited resources available, the college has increased its weekly asymptomatic testing goal to 365. This number includes 100% of the students studying nursing and culinary arts, residents and student athletes. This total also includes on campus employees who volunteer to test. In addition, the college will extend its testing plan beyond the Thanksgiving break through the end of the fall semester. All students living in the residence hall will test upon reentry to the halls at the end of Thanksgiving break.

To date, 491 tests have been administered with no positive cases discovered. The college will continue to monitor community spread and alter its plan if necessary.

**ORIGINAL:** SUNY Adirondack carefully planned for the start of the fall 2020 semester on September 9 as indicated in its approved plan on July 1 and its updated approved plan on August 12. Several health and safety protocols are in place to keep our community safe from the spread of the COVID 19 virus. The college had already submitted its testing plan for symptomatic cases and for students expected to reside in its single residence hall. The information outlined in this addendum addresses periodic presymptomatic/asymptomatic testing of other student and employee populations for early and ongoing detection of potentially infected individuals.

Considerations that informed this addendum to the college's approved plan:

1. The college's main campus is located in Warren county in Queensbury, its extension site is in Saratoga county in the town of Wilton, and its Culinary Arts Center is located in downtown Glens Falls. The region has sustained a long period of low incidents of COVID 19 and continues to be considered "very low risk" according to the Upstate Medical University Restart SUNY dashboard by campus.
2. Its main campus, where student residents will be living, is located in a small city with no other colleges and universities closeby for potential socializing and risk of spread.
3. To the best of our knowledge, there are little to no students who congregate in off-campus housing.
4. The occupancy rate in housing is 32% of an average year.
5. The college has gone above and beyond the measures at many institutions by instituting campus entry checkpoints as indicated below.

### **Health and Safety protocols**

**CAMPUS ENTRY CHECKPOINTS:** All students, employees and visitors must be checked in by the college's staff to demonstrate possession of a face covering and clearance either through the Campus Clear digital app, or upon answering the health assessment questions guided by the CDC and NY Department of Health. If cleared, a colored wristband is issued for the day as a visible demonstration of clearance. If not cleared, students and employees are instructed to stay home and students are contacted by our Dean for Student Affairs and employees are contacted by our Human Resources staff to discuss next steps.

**FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED:** Properly worn face coverings are required for everyone indoors, except when alone in private offices, specialized single person use studios or in single use spaces. They are also required outside if social distancing of at least 6 feet cannot be achieved.

### **DENSITY REDUCTION:**

1. The college has reduced its in person instruction by 75% of a typical fall semester. Classes in person were carefully constructed by faculty and academic administration to maximize instruction, while reducing density in classrooms and labs.
2. The college will be housing 134 residents in a building with capacity for 408. This significant reduction provides a private bedroom and bathroom for each resident and leaves 19 rooms for quarantine or isolation as needed.
3. Many of the college's employees continue to work remotely. On any given week, 887 employees (faculty, staff, and administrators) will be on the college's main campus spread out over 10 buildings with capacity in an office suite of 50% or less.

Therefore, because of the stringent measures already in place, the college's presymptomatic/asymptomatic testing plan focuses primarily on monitoring its highest risk populations of students with a voluntary approach to associated faculty and staff, with the understanding that more testing may arise if the local community has a rolling 7-day average of >1% positive rate of infection.

### **High risk populations**

The planning team assessed risk using the following guidance and only considered students and employees who will be on campus on a regular basis:

- Potential to congregate for prolonged periods of time where social distancing and face coverings may be challenging
- Potential exposure in higher risk environments when not on campus
- Required activity creates close contact

## **Pooled testing populations and frequency**

### **STUDENTS**

The college will apply a methodology that focuses on clustering students at the highest risk of the factors outlined above. We will use the pooled testing protocols through Upstate Medical University and if a pool is positive, we will request Reflex testing as a required follow up by Upstate Medical University to identify infected individuals and proceed accordingly.

1. Residence hall students
2. Nursing students
3. Student athletes
4. Culinary Arts Students

One half of these populations will be tested each week beginning the week of 9/21-11/20/2020.

### **EMPLOYEES**

The college will not mandate testing for employees, however, it will be strongly encouraged for employees who are in regular and close proximate contact with students on campus.

One half of this population will be tested each week beginning the week of 9/21-11/20/2020.

Note: The college will regularly reevaluate the populations and frequency of testing as results are received.

### **Plan Logistics**

In order to safely and effectively implement this plan, the college will use 3 testing sites.

Queensbury:

- Residence Hall students and residence hall staff will be tested in the residence hall
- All other student and employee cohorts will be tested in the college's large event space for ample room and access

Culinary:

- All Culinary students and faculty will be tested at the Culinary Center site.

The college will utilize current administrative staff to manage the testing protocols including the scheduling and communication, training, staffing, and reporting. Outside resources may be hired

as needed. Test results are recorded in a secured file with limited access and reported daily to SUNY as required.

Since the college will be using the pooled testing protocols developed by Upstate University Medical Center, testing sites, protocols, and training will all be guided by Upstate's Standard Operating Procedures and training materials. The college has conducted this protocol already on September 7&8, 2020, therefore learning from this experience and applying this knowledge as we scale up testing throughout the rest of the semester.

### **Isolation and Quarantine protocols**

The college submitted its isolation and quarantine protocols to SUNY and they were subsequently approved. They are provided here. Commuter students and employees who test positive will follow the directions of their health care providers and their county health officials.

#### **Residence Hall:**

The first floor South has been left empty (19 rooms) and designated for quarantine and isolation spaces. The East half of the floor will be available to students who are symptomatic and awaiting test results and the West half will be for quarantine/exposed individuals. Isolation/Quarantine will be reserved for students due to confirmed or suspected COVID-19, direct exposure to COVID-19, international or other travel where New York State or the CDC recommends quarantine, or any other purpose as indicated by applicable CDC, State Department of Health, or Warren County guidelines

Chartwells, the campus food service provider, will deliver food to students in isolation/quarantine at the South Entrance exterior door, Residence Life staff will then deliver meals to room doors of quarantined or isolated students.

Maintenance staff are assigned to the isolation/quarantine section of the residence hall. Students' laundry will be done twice a week in the laundry room, and garbage pickup outside the rooms is provided

Quarantine/Isolation spaces will be stocked with: Hand Sanitizer, tissues, soap, toiletries, sanitizing wipes, microwave, refrigerator and a thermometer.

Students in isolation/quarantine will receive a daily check in email from the Residence Life office inquiring about health status and/or need for supportive services. Any requests will be forwarded to the Dean for Student Affairs office for coordination with the Community Hub or

other community resources. SUNY Adirondack has a partnership with Hudson Headwaters Health Network which has created a telehealth app for community use. This app can support students in isolation/quarantine. SUNY Adirondack also has a partnership with Warren County Public Health and all quarantine/isolation orders will be supervised by them. Regular meetings between SUNY Adirondack leadership and Warren County Public Health have been ongoing since March 2020 and this partnership will sustain through the Fall 2020 semester.

The isolation/quarantine floor has 19 bedrooms with private bathrooms within ten suites. Suites will be designated either quarantine or isolation. Once students move out of quarantine the occupied space will be cleaned following COVID 19 sanitization protocol. Length of quarantine and conditions for return to campus activities will follow official CDC and New York state guidelines.

Additional events and gatherings will be held for those students completing the 14 day quarantine period on campus.

The following services will be provided to all students in quarantine/isolation:

- Wifi access
- Links to Social media
- Recreation and Wellness virtual activities
- Referrals to on campus Counseling Services

### **Positive Test and return to campus policy**

The college will follow its return to campus/work policy for infected employees or students that was drafted using the New York State Department of Health's "Interim Guidance for Public and Private Employees Returning to Work Following COVID-19 Infection or Exposure"

All positive cases are reported to the Warren County Department of Health Services and contact tracing is conducted by the department with assistance from the college as needed. The college has nine employees trained as contact tracers as back up, if needed.

### **Conclusion**

SUNY Adirondack is committed to the health and safety of its campus and wider community. This plan is intended to increase the college's ability to detect potential cases earlier to mitigate the spread of COVID 19. The testing frequency and populations will be evaluated regularly by the college's COVID 19 Response Team and adjusted as needed.

