

July 16, 2020

To SUNY Poly Students and Employees:

SUNY Poly is especially focused on the health, safety, and welfare of every member of its community, especially its students and employees. We cannot guarantee a risk-free environment, and an inherent risk of exposure of COVID-19 exists in any public space where people are present.

Taking steps to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infections (or any other spread of disease) at SUNY Poly is a shared responsibility. As part of SUNY Poly's commitment to attempt to minimize exposure to COVID-19, SUNY Poly will be providing facial coverings to students and employees. Employees and students must understand that the use of face masks or face coverings does not remove all risks of illness, nor does it make it inherently safe to return to campus. Wearing facial coverings does not replace the need to continue frequent hand washing, avoid touching the face, and practice social distancing.

At both campuses, SUNY Poly plans to hand out facial coverings that are pre-wrapped, 100% cotton, and therefore, may shrink in the laundry; a limited supply of other options not described in the accompanying document may also be offered. Distribution details will be forthcoming. SUNY Poly's Albany campus currently also has a limited supply of "surgical or procedural" type facial coverings. These will be available at the security temperature screening post, if needed. You alone are responsible for determining the sufficiency of any facial covering usage or other precautions that you decide to take to minimize the risks of returning to campus. No party related to SUNY Poly, including any officer, employee, agent, volunteer, or student, is making any representations regarding the safety or the risks of using a specific type of mask or facial covering. You should instead rely on your own judgment as to whether to use the facial coverings SUNY Poly can provide, or to use your own. The choice of which facial covering to use should be made at your own discretion.

When you return to campus, there will be a distribution process in place to obtain a facial covering for use in the workplace. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Environmental Health & Safety ("EHS") in Utica at (315) 792-7101 or via email at clives@sunypoly.edu; or in Albany, contact EHS at (518) 956-7229 or SUNYPolyEHS@sunypoly.edu. Please note that the training for returning to the workplace includes videos on proper glove removal and face covering and handling, and we encourage you to view them here: <https://sunypoly.edu/covid19/prevention.html>.

SUNY Poly has and is taking all required steps to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 infections, but the campus cannot categorically guarantee this will not happen. By coming onto campus, you understand infection remains a possibility, even with the use of face masks or face coverings. Our best tools to help prevent the spread of illness, in addition to wearing face masks, remain frequent hand washing with soap & water and maintaining a social distancing of at least 6 feet.

Sincerely,

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