

Dear SUNY Poly Students,

We are proud of the steadfast commitment members of the SUNY Poly community have made in keeping our campus safe. As we head into week six of the semester, I am confident that together, we can continue our trend of a very low number of positive cases (currently one) and overall diligence following COVID-19 related mandates.

However, not all campuses across New York and our nation have experienced the same level of success. Last week, SUNY Chancellor Jim Malatras announced implementation of new mandatory standardized sanctions across all SUNY campuses for those who fail to follow COVID-19 policies and directives. The Comprehensive Emergency Directive “seeks to create uniformity of sanction to help SUNY balance the need to protect public health of students, faculty, staff, and community members, with students’ rights to remain within the educational environment.”

Effective October 1, 2020 at 8 a.m., all SUNY campuses, including SUNY Poly, must adhere to the emergency directive calling for uniform sanctions in response to COVID-19 safety violations by students.

Please review the new policy carefully. Failure to comply with the safety protocols will have a detrimental impact on your education. The complete SUNY policy is located here: <https://www.suny.edu/suny-news/press-releases/09-2020/9-25-20-protocols/covid-safety-protocols.html>.

The policy sets a range of allowable sanctions for the infractions listed below. These include suspension from academic and/or housing access with continued access to academic programs via remote learning only (if available and as subject to campus policy and process), academic and/or housing suspension, or permanent dismissal from the institution.

It is important to note that if there is a student found responsible for violations and the sanction of dismissal or suspension is applied, the student will be ineligible for a refund of tuition, room, board, or fees, and the student will be responsible for all amounts owed.

- **Intentional Violations of COVID-Positive Students:** For students who know they have tested positive for COVID-19 or know they have had close contact with someone who has tested positive, been treated, or is symptomatic for COVID-19, and then intentionally expose other students.
- **Failure to Self-Isolate:** For students who fail to self-isolate (because they are COVID-19 positive) as directed by their SUNY campus or the State or local Department of Health.
- **Failure to Quarantine:** For students who have been directed by the institution, the State, or local Department of Health to complete a quarantine period because they are potentially positive as a result of being a close contact with someone who is positive, on or off campus, and then engage in any conduct that violates such quarantine order.
- **Prohibited On-Campus or Off-Campus Gathering (Hosts):** For students who host an on-campus or off-campus gathering of any size, whether indoor or outdoor, that violates campus policy and/or exceeds the current limitation published by the SUNY campus, Executive Order, or the State or local Department of Health.

- **Prohibited On-Campus or Off-Campus Gathering (Attendees)**: For students who attend a gathering of any size (but not as hosts), whether indoor or outdoor, that violates campus policy and/or exceeds the current limitation published by the SUNY campus, Executive Order, or the State or local Department of Health.
- **Violations of Face Mask and Social Distancing Requirements**: For students found to have committed repeated and/or intentional violations of face mask/covering or social distancing requirements of the campus, Executive Order, or the State or local Department of Health.
- **Contact Tracing**: For students who repeatedly fail to comply, whether intentionally or unintentionally.
- **Failure to Comply with Campus Health Protocols (Testing and Daily Screening)**: For students who fail to attend at least two scheduled appointments, without sufficient excuse, to obtain diagnostic or surveillance COVID-19 testing under the campus's published protocol, or for students who fail to submit their daily health screening via the campus' portal for at least three consecutive days, the college shall undertake disciplinary action to enforce compliance, including interim suspension, or administrative measures to electronically deactivate card access and restrict access to any buildings with the exception of access required to obtain health care services pursuant to campus policy.

Additionally, the full policy references specific provisions related to student athletes involved in intercollegiate competition and registered student organizations.

We believe YOU will continue to abide by the standards set to keep our campus safe, as each of us play an important role to continue our success. Again, please carefully review the new policy here: <https://www.suny.edu/suny-news/press-releases/09-2020/9-25-20-protocols/covid-safety-protocols.html>. We will provide additional details in the coming days.

Sincerely,

Marybeth Lyons  
Vice President for Student Affairs  
SUNY Polytechnic Institute