

October 29, 2020

To SUNY Poly Students, Faculty, and Staff,

As we continue to employ every measure available to us to help mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19 within our SUNY Poly community, we wanted to inform you that we received the results of the latest wastewater COVID-19 test. This type of test is performed regularly as an additional way to detect the virus should it be present in wastewater as it exits campus buildings. It allows SUNY Poly to quickly determine where someone who may have the illness might be located and it then enables us to pursue further testing or other ways to protect our community.

The latest wastewater COVID-19 test indicated that trace amounts of COVID-19 have been found. Given the very low signal from the tests, it is inconclusive if there are any positive cases on campus. Out of an abundance of caution and to protect the health of students, faculty, and staff, we immediately sent a message to students who reside in Adirondack and Mohawk Halls requiring those with last names A-K in those buildings to take part in self-administered pooled testing. Testing samples are being submitted Friday morning.

This testing comes after students with last names L-Z completed COVID-19 testing earlier this week with all pools being presumed negative.

In addition, we are moving all dining facilities to take-out only effective Friday morning, and the situation will be reassessed in the next few days. We know how difficult this is, but we believe this is necessary to help protect you and our campus community. This will not impact how classes will be delivered.

This testing update is another reminder of why SUNY Poly is requiring strict adherence to efforts such as social distancing—especially at meal times—and the wearing of face coverings, while encouraging regular handwashing with soap for more than 20 seconds, along with the use of hand sanitizer (containing 60-95% alcohol).

Sincerely,

The Office of the President