

November 2, 2020

To SUNY Poly Students,

Recent Utica campus wastewater COVID-19 testing revealed *the potential* for the virus to be present, leading us to initiate immediate follow-up pooled testing. We wanted to let you know that the pooled testing results from this extra effort indicate those who were tested are all presumed negative.

While this is good news, we are seeing the increasing positive rate of COVID-19 infection in the surrounding community and out of an abundance of caution, the dining halls will remain take-out only. This will continue until we receive “presumed negative” results as part of the next round of pooled testing. This will not impact how classes are being delivered.

It is important to take every precaution to support the health of our community. As we see an increasing number of COVID-19 cases across the nation, SUNY Poly will continue to require strict adherence to efforts such as social distancing 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). In addition, at this time we request that you limit your interaction with the larger community as we aim to conclude the in-person portion of the semester with as few cases as possible. Already, your efforts have helped SUNY Poly keep the campus and our community as safe as possible during this challenging time.

As we plan for the conclusion of on-campus instruction later this month, we will require that in addition to the current COVID-19 pooled testing schedule, all residential and commuter students, as well as all on-campus UUP-, CSEA-, PEF-, and PBANYS-represented employees (NYSCOPBA-represented and M/C employees are voluntary) must be tested Nov. 16/17 in anticipation of their departure for Thanksgiving. This will help minimize the potential spread of the virus as we look forward to the holidays.

More information about testing, as well as dining hall services, will be forthcoming. Thank you again for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

The Office of the President