



July 23, 2021

To SUNY Poly Students:

We are enthusiastic to bring students back to campus for in person instruction and residential living next month. We want to share SUNY Poly's policies and procedures regarding COVID-19 vaccination, testing, and safety precautions for the fall 2021 semester. These policies and procedures are designed to protect the health and safety of our campus and surrounding community.

SUNY Poly has adopted campus regulations requiring vaccinations of all residential students, effective Aug. 15, 2021, regardless of full FDA approval, if residency on campus is desired. These requirements are more fully detailed below. Students who choose not to be vaccinated against COVID-19 will not be eligible for residency. This requirement has been implemented to best support the health and safety of students living together in close proximity, who share social spaces and residential services daily.

Albany campus residential students living in Freedom Apartments will follow the University at Albany residential requirements forwarded separately.

Please note that ALL SUNY Poly students, including those who reside off campus or commute from a parent or guardians home, and who will access campus facilities in person will be required to be fully vaccinated when at least one COVID-19 vaccination receives full FDA approval. All students are advised that SUNY Poly will require full compliance with this general policy requiring student vaccinations at the earliest possible date following full FDA approval.

We strongly encourage all SUNY Poly students to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Please submit proof of vaccination to wellnesscenter@sunypoly.edu prior to arriving on campus for the fall 2021 academic term. Students are further encouraged to **submit such proof by August 13, 2021** to ensure their vaccination status is confirmed prior to the start of the term.

For the purposes of this guidance, individuals are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 more than two weeks after they have received the second dose in a two-dose series (e.g., Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or more than two weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson/Janssen). Subject to final NYS guidance, COVID-19 vaccines recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) may now be accepted for purposes of determining vaccine status (see below "International Students" section for more details).

Residential Student Medical Exemptions from the COVID-19 Vaccination

Students may be exempt from the vaccination requirement if a duly licensed healthcare provider certifies in writing that the student has a medical contraindication to the COVID-19 vaccine. Residential students will receive the instructions for submitting medical exemption from the vaccine in a follow up letter from Residential Life.



Residential Religious Exemptions from the COVID-19 Vaccination

Students who hold genuine and sincere religious beliefs that are contrary to COVID-19 vaccination may petition for exemption from the vaccination. Residential students will receive the instructions for submitting religious exemption from the vaccine in a follow-up letter from Residential Life.

Students granted a medical or religious exemption will be subjected to certain restrictions and COVID-19 testing requirements as set forth in this document.

The procedures for residential students to submit COVID-19 vaccine exemption will be sent to all residential students under separate letter and will be due by August 13, 2021.

Obligations of Residential Students Who are Granted Medical or Religious Exemption from the COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement

Residential students who are granted an exemption from the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine requirement are subject to additional requirements to remain on campus. Exempted students are required to:

- Provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of and before the student's move-in date. Some students with special approval for unavoidable circumstances, such as international travel, may be permitted to quarantine in temporary accommodations for 10 days upon arrival on campus and have a negative COVID-19 test on the 10th day to be eligible for release.
- Comply with mandatory COVID-19 surveillance testing at least once a week. See student testing requirements here: <https://sunypoly.edu/covid19/student-testing.html>.
- Maintain six feet of social distancing and wear a face covering at all times the student is indoors except: when the student is in their private residential or personal space; when they are eating meals on campus while seated and social distancing is appropriately enforced; or the student is alone.
- Maintain six feet of social distancing and wear a face covering when outdoors in crowded settings where extended close contact with others is expected.

Housing Reassignment for Residential Students

Per the housing license, SUNY Poly reserves the right to reassign students from their current housing assignment. If possible, reassigned students are assigned to space in the same residential complex as their current assignment. A student reassigned to a different residential community and/or room type in an effort to resolve conflicting vaccination status will be charged the lower of the two housing rates if they differ between the two assignments.

Residential Students Who will be Partially Vaccinated

Students who are only partially vaccinated by their scheduled move in date must submit partial vaccination to the Wellness Center prior to arrival at wellnesscenter@sunypoly.edu, and include the scheduled date of the second vaccination. For planning purposes, Pfizer requires a two-dose vaccination 21 days apart. Moderna requires a two-dose vaccination 28 days apart. J&J requires only one dose. Students who will receive only the first dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine prior to arrival must submit information on the appointment they have scheduled to complete the



second dose. Second dose appointment information must be provided to wellnesscenter@sunypoly.edu **before** arrival on campus.

Cancellation of Housing and Dining

Students who will not meet the vaccination requirement for on-campus housing may petition to cancel housing before August 13, 2021. Students who are denied a medical or religious exemption must request a housing cancellation within three business days of their notification. Students who fail to meet the August 13, 2021 deadline for cancellation will be subject to housing and dining charges for the Fall 2021 semester but will only be permitted to occupy their residential space after they are vaccinated.

Students may request to cancel housing and dining if they are not vaccinated. The cancellation request can be accessed by logging into Housing and Dining Self Service in Banner and completing the 2021-2022 Housing and Dining Cancellation Request. *Cancellation requests for failure to vaccinate will not be accepted after August 13, 2021.*

Surveillance Testing Responsibility/Consequences of Non-Compliance

Students living on campus and granted medical or religious exemptions from the vaccination requirement must participate in COVID-19 surveillance testing at least once a week. It is the responsibility of the student to complete testing each week in accordance with the [testing schedule](#) for as long as they remain unvaccinated or are not yet fully vaccinated (less than two weeks post-completion of vaccination or vaccination series) and for as long as the Testing Center continues to operate. Students will be granted one warning for failure to comply. Upon a second missed test, the student will be referred to Community Standards.

Off-Campus and Commuter Student Vaccination Requirement

ALL SUNY Poly students who access campus facilities in person will be required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 with limited exceptions. While the requirement for off-campus and commuter students will not take full effect until at least one COVID-19 vaccination receives full FDA approval, all students, including those who cancel housing and dining to move off campus or commute, are advised that SUNY Poly will require full compliance with this general policy requiring student vaccinations at the earliest possible date following full FDA approval.

After FDA full approval, the vaccine requirement shall apply to all off-campus students who wish to be on campus for any reason, including but not limited to; attending classes and labs, eating in dining facilities, visiting anyone on campus, participating in and/or attending intercollegiate athletics, using the fitness center, library, computer lab and other resources, participating in events and activities, including student clubs and organizations.

All students are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated as soon as possible and submit proof of vaccination to wellnesscenter@sunypoly.edu prior to arriving on campus for the fall 2021 academic term. Students are further encouraged to **submit such proof by August 13, 2021** to ensure their vaccination status is confirmed prior to the start of the term.



Off-Campus or Commuter Students Medical and Religious Vaccine Exemptions, Post-FDA Approval

Students may be exempt from the vaccination requirement if a duly licensed healthcare provider certifies in writing that the student has a medical contraindication to the COVID-19 vaccine. Students who hold genuine and sincere religious beliefs contrary to COVID-19 vaccination may request a religious exemption. The form to request exemption from the COVID-19 vaccine requirement will be available the week of July 26, 2021.

Students granted an exemption from the vaccination requirement in accordance with these guidelines are subject to additional requirements to enable them to have a physical presence on campus. Exempted students are required to:

- Provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of and before the first day of classes or quarantine for 10 days prior to the first day of class and have a negative COVID-19 test on the 10th day (day before classes begin) to be eligible for release
- Comply with mandatory COVID-19 surveillance testing at least once a week.
- Complete a daily health screening when on-campus
- Maintain six feet of social distance and wear a face covering at all times the student is indoors on campus, except when eating meals while seated and social distancing (six feet apart from another), or the student is alone.
 - Maintain six feet of social distancing and wear a face covering when outdoors in crowded settings where extended close contact with others is expected.
- Comply with all additional restrictions applying to campus instructional, work, and research spaces as set forth in these guidelines.
- Off-campus students who fail to meet weekly testing obligations or otherwise fail to comply with these requirements will be granted one warning. Thereafter, non-compliant students will be referred to Community Standards.

International Students

The CDC and New York State Department of Health have recommended that completing a WHO-approved vaccine series is acceptable as proof of being fully vaccinated. The current list of WHO-approved vaccines [is available online](#). A vaccine is approved if "Finalized" appears in the column called "Status of Assessment". Students who do not have access to any COVID-19 vaccine in their home country or cannot complete their vaccine series before arrival in the United States and who are not requesting a religious or medical exemption, must notify wellnesscenter@sunypoly.edu for assistance in complying with this requirement.

Vaccination Requirement for On Campus Programs and Services

Campus recreation, events, or activities may limit participation in certain programs and access to indoor recreation spaces to fully vaccinated attendees. Some on-campus recreation, events, or activities may require proof of vaccination.



Special Guidelines for Instructional and Research Environments

It is the responsibility of students who are not fully vaccinated to wear a face covering in all learning spaces.

Students entering lab spaces are required to follow the campus COVID safety guidelines. Those who are vaccinated are not required to wear a facial covering unless it is a requirement of the lab due to the research being conducted. Students who are not fully vaccinated are required to wear facial coverings and maintain social distancing (where possible) in labs and classrooms at all times. The faculty or staff member in charge of the lab space(s) will ensure all safety requirements are followed and may impose additional safety measures for all (vaccinated and unvaccinated) at their discretion.

Monitoring of Campus/Community Infection and Vaccination Measures

According to the CDC, multiple factors should be considered for managing environments where 100% of the population is not fully vaccinated. Ideally, consideration would be given to both the direct campus population as well as the surrounding community. The primary factors to consider include: (1) level of community transmission of COVID-19; (2) COVID-19 vaccination coverage, including among students, faculty, and staff; (3) implementation of a robust, frequent SARS-CoV-2 screening testing program with high participation from the unvaccinated campus population; and (4) any local COVID-19 outbreaks or increasing trends.

Therefore, the following guidance applies:

- **Vaccinated individuals:** Fully vaccinated individuals are not required to wear a face covering or socially distance on campus. Pursuant to CDC guidance, nothing herein prohibits fully vaccinated individuals from continuing the use of face coverings.
- **Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals:** Individuals who are not vaccinated or fully vaccinated are responsible for continuing to wear face coverings on campus and should, where practicable, continue to observe social distancing in indoor settings, such as instructional space (e.g., classrooms, laboratories, studios).
- **Campus discretion:** SUNY Poly may impose additional face covering-wearing requirements and additional terms or restrictions within the instructional setting (e.g., no eating or drinking) above and beyond the CDC guidance. If so, the campus will work with stakeholders to develop any additional changes and communicate these change to the entire college community.
- **Special consideration:** Pursuant to the CDC, “A person with a disability who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.)” may submit a request to the campus for consideration of an exemption from mask-wearing based on a medical accommodation, regardless of vaccination status by contacting ds@sunypoly.edu.
- **Community transmission:** Additional requirements may be imposed by the campus or SUNY System Administration based upon the increasing COVID-19 transmission rates on campus and/or the surrounding community.



Diagnostic Testing and Surveillance Testing

Students who have any symptoms of any infectious illness, including COVID-19, should contact the Wellness Center the **first day they are ill**, even if symptoms are mild. This applies to vaccinated and unvaccinated students, both residential and off-campus or commuter. Students with symptoms of illness should isolate until speaking with the Wellness Center.

To meet testing requirements and needs, and in lieu of participating in pooled testing, you are encouraged to participate in [Project Baseline testing](#), a free, individualized, community-based drive-through PCR testing process in which you fill out the intake form online, schedule a drive-through test at Rite Aid Pharmacies located throughout the region, and then electronically receive test results which you can then submit as indicated above. Obtaining a community-based PCR test through Project Baseline is fast, free, and provides the autonomy and convenience of meeting the testing requirements according to your personal schedule. Additionally, testing is also available for free at [Walgreens](#) - be sure to select "Rapid Diagnostic Test (IDNOW)".

At the Wellness Center, symptomatic students will receive a rapid molecular (PCR) test, which is a nasal (short) swab test. Any individual who tests positive, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, will be required to isolate for 10 days. Specific details on isolation can be found below.

Fully vaccinated students may opt out of mandatory weekly testing upon the submission of full vaccination documentation. Students can submit their documentation to WellnessCenter@sunypoly.edu. The campus may require more frequent surveillance testing of all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, upon consultation with the local health department in response to changes in community health and infection rates.

Isolation and Quarantine Responsibilities

Symptomatic students must isolate until their test results are known. Students living on-campus who test positive are required to isolate either at home or in designated spaces on-campus as directed by the Wellness Center or the Health Department, following all instructions and guidelines issued by SUNY Poly and the health department until they are cleared. COVID-19 positive individuals will be required to isolate for 10 days.

Off-campus students testing positive will isolate either at home or in their off-campus residence for the 10-day period.

Vaccinated individuals exposed to COVID-19 positive individuals do not need to quarantine as long as they remain asymptomatic. These individuals should self-monitor for symptoms over the next 14 days, with appropriate follow up should symptoms develop.

Unvaccinated individuals with recent COVID-19 exposure must quarantine for 10 days or may leave quarantine after day seven following receipt of a negative test result (test must occur on day five or later). These individuals should self-monitor for symptoms over the next 14 days. If symptoms develop, self-isolation should occur with prompt follow-up with the local public health authority or a healthcare provider.



Thank you for protecting yourself and the SUNY Poly community, and for following these guidelines so that we can provide all students with the best experience possible. We look forward to having you back on campus soon!

Sincerely,
Marybeth Lyons
Vice President for Student Affairs