

April 26, 2022

Good afternoon:

Along with many other areas of New York State, Oneida and Albany counties are currently experiencing an increase in COVID-19 cases and associated hospitalizations.

As a result, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has [designated](#) our counties' COVID-19 community level as "high." In areas designated as having a high community level, the [CDC lists prevention steps that should be taken](#) by everyone, regardless of vaccination status. This includes wearing a well-fitting mask indoors in public and other measures listed on the CDC website.

SUNY Poly identified additional campus-specific metrics (see table below) that are used to guide decision-making regarding a return to a campus-wide or event-specific mask mandate. These criteria are included in [SUNY Poly's Spring 2022 Mask Policy](#).

Based on SUNY Poly's Mask Policy and our campus' metrics which reveal a lower number of positive cases at this time as compared with the larger communities, we are not mandating masks while indoors. However, recognizing the CDC guidance and the increase in the number of positives cases in Oneida and Albany counties, we strongly recommend that everyone carry and consider wearing a well-fitting mask while indoors with others, especially when social distancing is not possible.

Please continue to be courteous and understanding when people are wearing masks or where you are asked to wear one in specific situations (e.g., private offices, classrooms, and during activities and events).

Masks continue to be required in Wellness Center Student Health Services (Campus Center) and the Community Testing Site (Oriskany Hall). Event coordinators may require masks at their event or activity, and faculty may require masks be worn during their classroom instruction.

As a reminder, anyone who is within six to ten days of receiving a positive test for COVID-19 or who has symptoms is still required to continue to be masked around others. Masks are especially encouraged for those (regardless of vaccination status) who have been identified as close contacts of a COVID-19 positive individual, and those with approved vaccine exemptions or those who have not yet received their boosters when eligible.

Please be vigilant and pay close attention to your health. If you are having any symptoms, you should wear a well-fitting mask around others and immediately get tested for COVID-19.

The free Community Testing Site in Oriskany Hall is open Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Walk-in testing is available, or you can [schedule an appointment online](#) through Quadrant Biosciences.

Tests can also be scheduled at many other locations in the area including [Walgreens](#), [Rite Aid Project Baseline](#), [Kinney Drugs](#), and [others](#).

If you test positive using an at-home rapid test or other test from outside the campus:

- Students should contact Wellness Center at Wellness@sunypoly.edu.
- Employees should contact Human Resources at HR@sunypoly.edu.

Thank you for all that you have done to support each other through this changing pandemic.

SUNY Poly COVID-19 Mask Metrics

These metrics, calculated each week, are a snapshot based on the previous week's values. They are not a rolling calculation and are not run on a daily basis unless there is a surge of positives that will result in the weekly average exceeding the goal (e.g., 35 cases in one day).

METRIC	Albany	Utica	Combined
a. Percent Presumed Positive (biweekly testing goal is <5% positive) 4/18-22 testing RNA Institute	1.1	0.3	0.4*
b. Percent Presumed Positive (weekly testing goal is <10%) 4/11-15 testing RNA Institute	1.8*	χ**	χ**
c. Average New Cases *** per day (previous 7 days goal is <5 per day Reported and RNA Institute testing between 4/15-21)	0.14	1.9	

* Percent Positive determined through testing via RNA Institute – positives from individualized testing are included in New Cases (c)
 ** Utica testing through Quadrant Bioscience or other third party labs which do not provide SUNY Poly with total number tested
 *** New Case identification is conservative and includes confirmed positives from diagnostic tests and reported diagnostic or home antigen tests.

Additional information regarding SUNY campus cases and tracking can be found at the [SUNY COVID-19 Case Tracker](#).