

November 9, 2021

To SUNY Poly Students, Faculty, and Staff,

Utica campus-based in-person classes will resume Wednesday, Nov. 10. Results from this week's testing round clearly suggest that the rate of spread has reduced to a point much lower than last week's transmission rate, and it remains lower than what the surrounding community has experienced.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the entire community for their strong response to our request to submit samples on Monday, which made the rapid resumption of in-person classes possible.

To prioritize the health of everyone on campus, **[protocols related to dining and indoor activities will remain in place as previously outlined in this Nov. 7 message.](#)** The Student Center will remain closed until Sunday, November 14. Please note that library and Mario Café access will be available to students along with the resumption of classes. Intercollegiate athletics will also resume with enhanced safety protocols. **Liberal leave and any extra telecommuting related to these recently implemented protocols has now concluded.**

Academic deans should coordinate with department and program chairs and their faculties to navigate any challenges that might arise by resuming in-person instruction. A preponderance of data, both system-wide and nationally, shows minimal risk of classroom and laboratory viral transmission when "masking" is employed (as is done at SUNY Poly). Nevertheless, we ask every faculty member to rigorously collect seating chart information for all in-person courses, as many have done throughout the semester, so that contact tracing can be efficiently and effectively completed when needed.

Additionally, in order to actively monitor the campus positivity rate, we are requiring full Utica campus testing (both vaccinated and unvaccinated) next Monday and Tuesday, November 15 & 16. If you need to pick up a new test kit, please email COVIDCompliance@sunypoly.edu.

Please continue to monitor your email for updates. Thank you once again for doing your part to uphold the health of those on our campus.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tod A. Laursen
Acting President
SUNY Polytechnic Institute