



February 4, 2022

To Faculty, Staff, and Students,

As part of our continuing effort to provide updates regarding COVID-19 and as we work to maintain the health and wellness of our students, faculty, and staff, we want to make you aware that ten individuals at the Utica campus and one individual at the Albany campus tested positive for COVID-19, in addition to one individual who was at the Albany site. The Utica-based individuals were last on campus January 17, 27, 28, 29, and 31, and February 2, 2022. The individuals at the Albany site were last at the Albany campus January 27 and 31, 2022. The individuals will remain isolated from the campus population until public health officials have indicated they may return.

We wish these individuals a full and rapid recovery. SUNY Poly will continue to follow the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and CDC guidelines regarding isolation and quarantine for our students and employees. Campus close contacts are identified and placed in precautionary quarantine and isolation as indicated by NYSDOH and CDC guidance. Close contacts are notified of precautionary safety protocols that must be followed. Please note that the CDC defines exposure risk from someone who is COVID-19 positive as resulting from being less than six feet away for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or longer over a 24-hour period.

In accordance with CDC cleaning and disinfection guidance, any impacted public locations with extended presence of a COVID-19 positive individual receive routine and/or enhanced cleaning and/or disinfection. All areas of concern or of high common use are routinely cleaned and disinfected.

It is the institution's responsibility to safeguard the privacy of those on campus, and in accordance with federal law related to health information, any impacted individual(s) cannot be identified. We will continue to alert you about any COVID-19 cases impacting our campus.

As we have previously shared with you and especially because of the current COVID-19 activity in the surrounding communities, COVID-19 Exposure Guidance procedures have been implemented and are being followed. We encourage everyone to continue taking COVID-19 precautions on or off campus. It is critical that people monitor their symptoms and respond appropriately. Many of our positive cases indicated that they thought they had a cold or allergies; we should assume that these symptoms could be COVID-19 related. By staying home, getting tested, and following proper quarantine procedures, each of us can reduce exposures on campus.

*We would also like to remind you to monitor for symptoms; if you are having severe symptoms, including a fever of 102°F or higher, severe coughing spells, shortness of breath, blue lips or face, constant severe pain or pressure in your chest, extreme tiredness or lethargy, slurred speech, seizures, are coughing up blood, have new confusion or new serious disorientation (acting confused), or can't speak in full sentences, please contact your healthcare provider immediately; employees should also contact [Human Resources](#) and students should contact the [Wellness Center](#) for instructions.*



To help answer a number of questions and keep our community informed, please visit SUNY Poly's [COVID-19 webpage](#). You are also encouraged to obtain COVID-19 information from your healthcare provider, [NYS Dept. of Health](#), and the [CDC](#). In addition to this weekly COVID-19 update message, you can always find the latest case information at [SUNY's COVID-19 case tracker](#).

*Additional Resources Include:*

- [SUNY Spring 2022 Guidelines](#)
- [NYSDOH Quarantine and Isolation Guidelines](#)
- [CDC Quarantine/Isolation Guidance](#)
- [CDC Vaccine Booster Guidance](#)

*For all COVID-19 related symptoms, positive test results, isolation, or quarantine issues, please direct all communications to the following:*

- **Students:** Wellness Center at [WellnessCenter@sunypoly.edu](mailto:WellnessCenter@sunypoly.edu)
- **Employees:** Human Resources at [HR@sunypoly.edu](mailto:HR@sunypoly.edu)
- **Utica Campus Visitors:** Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) at (315) 792-7101 or Human Resources at [HR@sunypoly.edu](mailto:HR@sunypoly.edu)
- **Albany Campus Visitors:** Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) at [SUNYPolyEHS@sunypoly.edu](mailto:SUNYPolyEHS@sunypoly.edu) or Human Resources at [SUNYPolyHR@sunypoly.edu](mailto:SUNYPolyHR@sunypoly.edu)

SUNY Poly will continue to put in place the necessary measures to maximize our community's health. This update is a strong indication of why SUNY Poly is requiring strict adherence to efforts such as pooled testing, daily screening, the wearing of face coverings, mandatory vaccination/boosters for students while encouraging vaccinations for all and boosters for all who are eligible, and regular handwashing with soap for more than 20 seconds, along with the use of hand sanitizer (containing 60-95% alcohol).

We appreciate your supporting these critical efforts, as well as your patience and understanding.

The Office of Marketing and Communications