



The State University
of New York

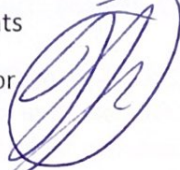
Dr. Jim Malatras
Chancellor

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MEMORANDUM

To: SUNY Campus Presidents

From: Jim Malatras, Chancellor 

Date: September 14, 2020

Subject: Clarification of COVID Positive Thresholds for Temporary Suspension of In-Person Learning on College and University Campuses in New York State

This memo provides additional clarification on the Higher Education Supplemental Guidance issued on August 28, 2020 establishing minimum COVID positive thresholds for the temporary suspension of in-person learning on college and university campuses in New York State.

Guidance: Beginning with the 14-day period starting August 28, 2020 to September 11, 2020, whenever the lesser of 100 individuals or 5% of the total on-campus population – inclusive of students, faculty, and staff – of a higher education institution location test positive for COVID-19 within a 14-day period, the location must immediately (1) transition all in-person learning to remote format(s), with several exceptions, and (2) limit on-campus activities for a period of 14 days.

Clarification: For purposes of New York State Department of Health's mandatory requirement to suspend in-person learning as stated above, campuses should measure the percent of COVID positive of their total on-campus population only during individual separate 14-day periods and not as a rolling average. These periods are listed below and are reflected in SUNY's COVID-19 system-wide dashboard.

Measurement Periods

Period 1: Beginning August 28 – end of Sept 11
Period 2: Sept 12 – Sept 25
Period 3: Sept 26 – Oct 9
Period 4: Oct 10 – Oct 23
Period 5: Oct 24 – Nov 6
Period 6: Nov 7 – Nov 20
Period 7: Nov 21 – Dec 4
Period 8: Dec 5 – Dec 18

Notwithstanding the guidance above, each campus should continue to closely monitor the trends and maintain the ability to take aggressive and more restrictive action whenever trends emerge and it is deemed warranted. Any additional restrictions, including compliance with the August 28, 2020 Supplemental Guidance, should continue to be made in consultation with the Chancellor's office and the local department of health prior to any public announcement.

Mandatory Actions if Threshold is Reached: If the COVID-positive percentage or number is reached during any period, in-person athletic events, extracurricular programs, and other non-essential student activities must be suspended, and dining hall(s) and other on-campus food services must be converted into take-out or delivery models, as appropriate. Essential on-campus functions are authorized to continue as described in the "Limitations of On-Campus Activity" section attached. After the 14-day period, the local health department(s) where the higher education institution is located shall evaluate the institution's efforts to contain COVID-19 transmission at such location. If the local health department(s), in consultation with DOH, determines that the institution has demonstrated that community spread of COVID-19 has been effectively contained, the location shall be authorized to reopen for in-person learning. However, if after the 14-day period, the institution has not demonstrated that community spread of COVID-19 has been contained at such location, the local health department(s), in consultation with DOH, may require a continued suspension of in-person learning (i.e., an extended period of remote learning) and/or further mitigation measures by the institution.

For further information, please see attached the Supplemental Guidance for COVID-19 Containment at Higher Education Institutions. Any questions or concerns should be addressed to Valerie.Dent@suny.edu.

Attachments: Supplemental Guidance for COVID-19 Containment at Higher Education Institutions.