

June 9, 2020

Dear New England College Community,

As the New Hampshire weather finally warms up and we look forward to a restful summer break, the time seemed right to update you on the plan for resuming in-person living and learning in August.

Our day-to-day behavior must change in response to the COVID-19 threat. I will review some of the details of our plan shortly but, first, some imperatives. We will need to be more organized, more intentional, more careful. During the most difficult times this spring, students, faculty, and staff have stayed together, solved problems, and made the best of difficult circumstances. Looking ahead to collectively shouldering the risk of this new illness, we must also remain considerate of one another. Thanks for all you've done so far. We have more to do together.

We have created a re-opening [FAQ](#) for your reference, trying our best to anticipate your concerns and questions. With conditions changing daily, however, we know this information will change. As we proceed toward the fall, please check this link for updates.

From the responses to my earlier messages, continuing students and faculty are clearly eager to return to campus and new students are poised to begin. But things *will* be different. The largest single change, affecting all of us, is a revised [academic calendar](#), which ends the fall semester right after Thanksgiving without a fall break. This change reduces travel from home to campus, ideally to one roundtrip. Fall semester classes will meet in person and remotely. We will also have a new, optional winter term to be conducted remotely. Continuing students will find the familiar faces of faculty they know in the classroom—new students are being invited to sit in on a summer class remotely to get acquainted with our classroom experience. We will have multiple orientation sessions for new students, with several remote sessions; an online tutorial; and scheduled one-on-one meetings. We will have a staggered schedule for the move into student housing. Though we await final word from the NCAA, we expect fall athletics will proceed, most likely with a reduced number of contests, unfortunately without spectators, at least to start.

Our experience this past spring shows we can manage the educational program effectively and keep you safe at the same time. Re-opening the residential campus requires some adjustments: you will need to wear a mask—we'll have one for you with NEC's logo. Social distancing dictates limited gatherings and visits to campus. College facilities staff will provide increased cleaning and maximize air circulation in buildings. New signage will direct you on campus. Dining will provide a mix of take-out and safe, socially distanced dining.

Specifically, with respect to your health, each student and staff member will monitor their temperature twice a day (smart thermometers provided by NEC) and then use a telephone app to assess health status and take appropriate follow-up actions. Infrared technology at key points on campus will provide additional fever screening. The College will contract with a healthcare provider to offer testing, either on campus or at a nearby location. A student who lives within a driving distance of three hours who tests positive for COVID (or other flus) will be asked to go home. Students from farther away who test positive will be placed in quarantine housing and monitored by Wellness Services on campus.



*Office of the President*

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The faculty and administration continue to work extraordinarily hard to create a responsible plan for your in-person education on campus. I thank them for their efforts, and I thank you for your commitment to the College. The NEC spirit so evident in our community takes us forward even in turbulent times. As we move ahead, I am inspired by sage advice from Olympian Jesse Owens: “We all have dreams. In order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort.” As you make your plans to come to campus, I urge you to complete all necessary processes with Admissions, Housing, Wellness, Registrar, and Financial Services before arriving so we can reduce unnecessary personal contact for you and the NEC staff. If you are having difficulty in completing tasks related to fall enrollment, please contact us at [fallplans@nec.edu](mailto:fallplans@nec.edu). Of course, you can always write me directly at [president@nec.edu](mailto:president@nec.edu).

Sincerely,

Michele D. Perkins, EdD

President