New England College

Summer and Fall 2023 COVID-19 Guidelines

Revised: June 16, 2023

The following COVID-19 Guidelines are effective as of June 16, 2023, and are intended to be in place throughout the Summer and Fall 2023 semesters. As always, the College continues to monitor trends both on and off campus and will continue to model its planning utilizing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. In the event the guidelines below need to be amended, we will notify the community and post updates on the NEC website at: https://www.nec.edu/covid/.

Fall Semester Move-in Process

There will be no testing requirement as part of the Fall 2023 move-in process. All students are encouraged to take an at-home antigen test the morning they plan to return to the College just to check their status before returning to our community. If your test result is positive, please contact the COVID Response team at COVIDresponseteam@nec.edu immediately.

Testing During the Semester

During the academic year, students will have multiple options for testing.

First, there are free tests provided by the State of New Hampshire available as supplies last from the Mail Center and Wellness Center.

Second, testing kits are widely available for purchase at the campus bookstore, the local pharmacy, and via online retailers like Amazon.com.

Third, any student who has COVID symptoms or who has potentially been exposed to the virus should contact the Wellness Center on campus by email at wellnesscenter@nec.edu or by phone at 603.428.2253. Wellness Center staff will assess and may test as part of their medical evaluation.

Vaccination Requirements

As of May 16, 2023, the New England College no longer requires COVID vaccines to attend in-person classes. The college does HIGHLY recommend that all community members get a bivalent vaccine annually. Students who are in an academic program or course that involves a clinical rotation, student teaching/methods, or an internship are still expected to comply with any requirements set forth by their work site. New England College requirements would not supersede any expectations your off-campus employer would have.

Isolation for Students Who Test Positive for COVID-19

Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 must enter isolation for at least five days. Guidelines for isolation are as follows:

- Students who have a positive COVID-19 test result must isolate for a minimum of five days from the date of their initial positive test. On the sixth day following the initial positive test, students will take an antigen test, and if that test is negative, physical isolation can end.

Students who test positive on the sixth day must continue to remain in physical isolation until they test negative on a future antigen test.

- A student who does not test negative on an antigen test by their 10th day in isolation can leave isolation on the 10th day as long as they are no longer symptomatic.
- Students who are permitted to leave isolation before their 10th day are required to wear a well-fitting mask in all campus buildings through their 10th day after the initial test.
- Residential students who test positive for COVID-19 and who have a single room will be permitted to isolate in their own room, wearing a mask at all times when they are outside their room until their isolation is over. Residential students who test positive for COVID-19 and who live in a double, triple, or quad room will be required to go home to isolate if they live within four hours of campus. Students in non-single rooms who live further than four hours away will be permitted to complete their isolation period in separate isolation housing on campus. Commuter students will be expected to complete their isolation off campus.

Exposure to a COVID-19-Positive Person

Physical quarantine for persons who are close contact to a COVID-positive person is not required at this time.

Students are required to wear a high-quality mask for 10 days from the date of close-contact exposure and to self-monitor for symptoms. Any student impacted can contact at COVIDresponseteam@nec.edu for guidance on mask wearing and questions on who qualifies as a close contact.

Mask Usage

While there is no general requirement for all persons to wear masks in college buildings, mask wearing is required under the following circumstances:

- Masks must be worn in the office of any staff or faculty member who asks persons to wear masks in their office.
- Masks must be worn in classrooms if the faculty/instructor asks that they be worn during class sessions.
- Students are required to wear a mask for 10 days after being a close contact of a COVID-positive person.
- Students who tested positive for COVID-19 and who are permitted to leave isolation before their 10th day are required to wear a well-fitting mask in all campus buildings through their 10th day after the initial test.

The College recognizes that some persons may choose to wear masks as a precaution, and we support this individual choice. Community members are asked to respect this choice and encouraged not to assume that a person wearing a mask is COVID-positive or unvaccinated.

Temporary Remote Status

Remote status in classes will only be granted temporarily to undergraduate in-person students who are required to isolate due to a COVID-19 infection. The terms for addressing missed work while remote will be determined by the faculty member, the student, and the student's advisor as needed.