



## Fall 2020 Opening FAQ

(updated August 5, 2020)

NEC's Henniker and Manchester campuses will be open for in-person learning this fall and are implementing a range of approaches that prioritize safety, flexibility, and academic quality. To help each of you in your planning, we are committed to sharing our plans as they develop. Please note, the information provided below is subject to change. Updates can be found at [www.nec.edu/fall-plans/](http://www.nec.edu/fall-plans/).

### Academics

#### Will there be a change in the Academic Calendar?

Yes. This year we will have a calendar different from other years. Click [www.nec.edu/academic-calendar](http://www.nec.edu/academic-calendar) to see the revised calendar for the coming year. Some of the highlights include ending the Fall term just before Thanksgiving and not starting Spring term until February 1, 2021. During the winter months, we will have a new Winter term delivered remotely via Blackboard and Zoom.

#### Will there be changes to how classes work in the Fall?

Yes! There are actually several changes. Let's talk about the specific changes:

1. Classes will be delivered face to face for students who want to be on campus and remotely for those who want to remain home. Please note that, in an attempt to maximize safety while we are waiting for students' testing results to come back, all class sessions will be delivered virtually (remotely) for the first two weeks of the term, and on-campus students will begin their face-to-face classes during the week of September 7<sup>th</sup>.
2. On-campus classes will be delivered one day a week live in a classroom with the rest of the class time spent in remote teaching and learning.
3. Face-to-face classes will be limited to 10 students.
4. Studio, lab, and other applied courses will meet face-to-face for an extended period each week as determined by the faculty member.

To make all of these changes work, there may be some changes to class days and times. We will be posting revised schedules prior to the Fall semester. So, stay tuned.

#### Many colleges are discussing a revised code of conduct to keep community members safe. Is this happening at NEC?

Yes. We very much want to see all of our students return to campus this fall. But these are not normal times with the COVID-19 pandemic still very much a part of our lives. So, we will be implementing a series of conditions that students will be required to follow in order to keep us all safe. Some examples of changes to our Code of Student Conduct include:

1. All community members will be required to wear masks while in public. We recommend that you have at least four face coverings available for your use on campus, and the college will also provide an official NEC mask to you.
2. All community members will be limited to gathering in groups of 10 or fewer persons. No large gatherings (more than 10) are permitted.
3. No guests will be allowed on campus unless as part of educational or operational business.
4. Student travel will also be restricted during the Fall semester. No travel out of the State of New Hampshire is permitted without permission from the Dean of Students, and no overnight trips off campus will be permitted without prior permission from the Dean of Students. Please note that travel restrictions will be strict to start the semester, as we await testing results from community members and we establish our new routine with classes, dining, etc.
5. Students who test positive for the Coronavirus or who are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to either go home (if they live within a three-hour drive of campus) or move to quarantine housing on their campus. Students are expected to comply with these guidelines and the directives of college staff

responding to these situations. Close contacts of a Coronavirus-positive student will also be asked to leave campus for testing and monitoring of symptoms for 14 days.

By choosing to come to campus, all community members agree to abide by these new guidelines for conduct. Anyone found violating the guidelines will be sent home and will not be allowed to continue their studies on campus.

#### **How will you ensure students stay safe while attending classes and visiting offices around campus?**

- Faculty will welcome and dismiss students in a staggered way to allow for social distancing.
- We will mark floors and put up signage throughout campus to encourage social distancing.
- Classroom doors will remain open for maximum air flow, and we will establish one-way flow in and out of buildings.
- Cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer will be made available to faculty, staff, and students.
- Plexiglass barriers will be employed as needed in classrooms, labs, restrooms, and office spaces.
- Facilities will be cleaned multiple times throughout the day.
- Student support offices like financial services, the library, and academic support will all offer appointments via Zoom.

In addition, students, faculty, and staff will be expected to follow State guidelines for COVID safety, such as social distancing and wearing masks at all times. We will be educating students on those guidelines and related policies and procedures so we can keep everyone on campus safe.

### **Orientation for New Students**

#### **What will happen with orientation?**

Orientation will take place either in a hybrid fashion or remotely, depending on whether students join us on campus or remain remote. As students will be awaiting Coronavirus testing results during their typical orientation days, we are planning to deliver all content virtually. We are finalizing schedules and will send details to new students as soon as possible.

### **Admissions and Financial Aid**

#### **Given the current pandemic crisis, might NEC plan to have periodic virtual sessions with students for preparation/guidance and updates for the fall session?**

New students interested in attending New England College will have access to multiple virtual information sessions through the summer. Invitations will be sent via email or you can visit [www.nec.edu/admission/visit/](http://www.nec.edu/admission/visit/).

#### **My family's financial situation has changed because of the pandemic. Will NEC review my financial aid award?**

All students who have faced a change in financial circumstances may request an appeal form by emailing [sfs@nec.edu](mailto:sfs@nec.edu).

### **Housing and Dining**

#### **What if my roommate gets sick?**

If a student is suspected to have COVID-19 or actually tests positive for the Coronavirus, we will follow the proper protocol in consultation with the CDC and State health officials. This will include separating roommates, utilizing quarantine housing, and students going home who live within a three-hour driving radius. Likewise, roommates and others who may have been highly exposed must follow proper protocol and will be monitored by the Wellness Center. Roommates and other close contacts may be required to return home for 14 days to monitor symptoms and receive Covid testing if they live within three hours of their campus. Students who live further from their campus may be assigned to quarantine housing for up to 14 days and be required to get tested for the coronavirus.

#### **How will you manage the dining hall?**

We are confident in how we will handle dining services given the lessons we learned from dining in the spring. This includes the ability to utilize take-out dining and safe, socially-distant dining. All dining services on both campuses will begin the year as "grab and go", to allow for increased physical distancing while students await their testing results. We will also offer outside dining as the weather permits.

#### **How will you manage moving into the residence halls?**

We will have a staggered check-in schedule in order to allow students to move in but remain socially distant from other students and families moving in. An email concerning sign-up for move-in has been sent to all students via their NEC email account; students must choose a window of time to move in. Please note that all students will need to ensure their Wellness and Health Services paperwork is 100% complete before they move in. Students without complete medical paperwork will not be permitted to move into their residence hall room or to participate in on-

campus classes. New incoming students and their parents should contact the Wellness Center immediately if they need assistance completing that paperwork in the Medcat system.

## **Health and Wellness**

### **Will students be required to be tested for the Coronavirus prior to starting the fall semester?**

Yes, all students who will be studying in person on either of our campuses must complete testing. Students are expected to be tested in early August (anytime after August 1<sup>st</sup>) and to submit those results prior to their arrival to the campus. These results can be submitted via the Medcat system that is used to submit all NEC-related health paperwork. In addition, all on-campus students will be tested during their arrival/registration process. This second test will be paid for by the college, and each student is required to submit a negative test result from this process before they can start their on-campus classes for the semester.

Please note that classes will be held remotely for all students for the first two weeks, even for students studying on campus. That period of remote learning will allow for testing results to come back from the laboratories. We expect students to remain on campus during this time period and for residential students to move into their rooms before August 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Will the College have a procedure for monitoring fevers among students and staff?**

Yes, the College is working on this issue from two directions. Working with the Kinsa Corporation, we plan to distribute smart thermometers to each student and staff member to enable them to monitor their temperature often. We will direct students and staff to do so twice a day and then use a telephone app to assess health status and take appropriate follow-up actions. The app will direct a symptomatic student to the College Wellness Center. In addition to distributed thermometers, we plan to deploy infrared technology at key points on campus to provide additional fever monitoring. Students or staff who register above critical levels on thermal scanning will be directed for further assessment.

### **Will the College test students and staff for COVID-19?**

While the College itself will not conduct testing, we have contracted with a local healthcare provider to provide testing for all students during move-in/registration week. Staff and faculty who will be working on campus will be tested prior to the start of the semester. Anyone who is symptomatic will be directed immediately for testing and appropriate medical intervention. In addition, randomly selected students, faculty, and staff will be required to get additional testing at certain points through the semester.

### **What happens if I get sick?**

If a student tests positive for COVID (or other flus), they will be asked to go home if they live within a driving distance of three hours. Those students who live outside of a three-hour radius will be placed in quarantine housing and monitored by Wellness Services on campus. Student placed in quarantine housing must abide by all guidelines associated with that area. Similar to our flu protocols, students who test positive for COVID will not be able to return to campus until they are clear of the virus as confirmed by a test and their healthcare provider. During that time, students will be able to continue their coursework virtually.

### **What mental health services are you offering?**

We will provide counseling services following State and CDC guidelines including tele-counseling.

### **Does the college have a quarantine protocol in place?**

Students who are suspected or confirmed to be positive for coronavirus or other flu will be required to go home (if they live within three hours of their campus) or they will be assigned to live in quarantine housing on their campus. In accordance with state/CDC guidelines, a positive diagnosis will result in contact tracing as well as support and guidance for students who may have been exposed to a student with coronavirus/COVID-19. If a staff or faculty member is suspected or confirmed to be positive for coronavirus or other flu, they will be required to leave the campus immediately, seek appropriate medical care, and not physically return to campus until cleared to do so by their medical provider.

### **Should I wear a face covering on campus?**

Yes. Per CDC guidelines, NEC will require that masks be worn in all buildings at all times. Exceptions to this guideline include: students who are in their residence hall room without visitors present, students using their residence hall bathroom, and when consuming food in a socially-distant manner.

### **Will my NEC-provided health insurance change?**

No. There will be no changes to the college-provided insurance coverage.

**I have already had SARS-CoV-2 and I have a positive antibody test. Do I still need to be tested upon arrival to campus and do I need to wear a mask?**

Yes, you do still need to be tested for the virus once you arrive to campus, because it is not clear if people can get infected with this virus more than once. Because we do not know now if people can get re-infected, you should continue to wear a mask.

**What types of tests are available, and which one will NEC be using?**

There are three types of tests for COVID.

- Tests for the viral RNA: These tests use a technique called qPCR which tests your nose/throat for viral RNA. These are the tests that our NEC partners will be conducting and these are the tests that should also be completed prior to coming to campus.
- Antibody tests: These tests look for presence of your immune response to the virus. They would indicate that you have been exposed to the virus. However, not all people that had the SARS-CoV-2 (virus that causes COVID-19) will test antibody positive. Antibodies decrease over time in your blood. This test does not let us know if you actively have the virus, as it only tells you if you “had” exposure to the virus. We will not be accepting or requiring antibody tests.
- Antigen tests. These test for proteins that the virus produces. Sometimes these are not as accurate as the qPCR tests, but they can give faster results. There may be limited use of these tests on campus, and may require another test within 24-48 hours or a second sample that would be sent to the lab for verification. These tests will not be used to approve students for a physical return to campus.

**Events**

**How can I have the full college experience, make friends, and meet new people?**

We will continue to have events on our campuses following CDC and State guidelines in order to support health and safety. We are committed to ensuring that students have an amazing college experience despite the challenges COVID has presented.

**What kind of programs are you offering students who are feeling extra stressed out by all these new rules and regulations?**

We know this is a stressful situation for students, especially our new students who are transitioning to college during these challenging times. We will educate students on all the important guidelines they will need to follow and will have our full range of support services available to ensure students are comfortable and enjoying their experience.

**On- and Off-Campus Work**

**Are there still on-campus internships available?**

Students should speak with the Career and Life Planning Office or their Academic Advisor to explore internship possibilities.

**How will I be able to work?**

Travel off campus will be highly restricted during at least the first two weeks of the semester. It may be possible for you to continue to hold jobs off campus, although you must remain in the State of New Hampshire and get permission for this travel from the Dean of Students.

**Is work study still offered?**

Yes! Students who are eligible will have opportunities to take work study positions at the college.

**Are there still on-campus internships available?**

Currently there are not any on-campus internships available. Should this change, we will provide this information to the Career and Life Planning Office. Please be sure to check with them for updates.

**Travel and Visitors**

**Are there visitor restrictions for those who remain on campus?**

Persons who are not members of the NEC community cannot be in any residence halls at any time. Students who live in a specific residence hall can visit other students in that hall after the first two weeks of the semester. Students who live in a specific residence hall cannot visit other residence halls or houses – they may only visit persons who live in their residence hall.

Parents, family members, or friends who wish to drop off items to a student or who wish to have a short visit may meet the student in a public off-campus area to do so. Places like Victory Park (in Manchester) and Azalea Park (in Henniker) would be good meeting places to use for these instances.

**Can students who remain on campus travel outside of Henniker or Manchester?**

Students who have been approved to live on campus may not travel outside of NH at any time, and may not stay off-campus during the fall semester. Exceptions to this policy must be requested through the Dean of Students, and will be granted for emergency situations only. Students failing to follow this policy will forfeit the right to retain on-campus housing and dining. Urgent travel should be brought to the attention of [jbuck@nec.edu](mailto:jbuck@nec.edu).

**I am an international student and do not know if I will be able to obtain a visa to come to the United States.**

**What are my options?**

If you are unable to obtain a visa in time for the fall semester, you can defer your enrollment to February 2021 or Fall 2021. Please contact [international@nec.edu](mailto:international@nec.edu) for more information.