

Dear returning NEC students,

I hope your long break has gone well, and we are excited to be preparing for the start of the spring semester. I am emailing with information about this term, just to be sure that you are prepared for a strong start to the semester. This message is a bit longer than it might have been in the past, and I ask that you take some time to read this thoroughly and please contact me with any questions you may have.

As you know, the coronavirus pandemic has impacted our campuses in several ways. Being a small, innovative college, we have been able to quickly change our programs and services to meet the demands of the pandemic, and I am proud of the work our entire community – students, staff, and faculty – has done to rise to these challenges. I am including information that will address our ongoing efforts to support you, whether you are studying on-campus or remotely.

Academic Programs

This past Fall, NEC was able to offer every student option to study on campus (in person) or remotely (on-line). Our faculty were able to offer a remote option for every class, allowing students who wished to remain at home the ability to fully pursue their studies at the college. At the same time, our entire staff coordinated to offer an on-campus learning option that allowed for the in-class engagement that we do so well – all while maintaining strict safety measures.

Students who will be studying **in person** on either of our campuses will have your courses delivered in a “hybrid” fashion. That means that some class time is in person, and some is “virtual” – delivered via Zoom or other technology. This allows us to lower the number of students in a classroom at any single time, helping to reduce chances of viral spread. Attending both the in-person and virtual sessions is vital to your success this term, and your faculty will help you understand how to fully engage in all the course instruction time for your classes. We also have a fantastic academic support team who can help you choose classes, provide you tutoring services, and help you with career and internship planning. Whether in-person or via Zoom, our staff are here to help! **Note:** During the start of the semester (two weeks), all classes will be on-line only. This will allow for coronavirus testing to be completed after students return to campus. After that initial on-line period, the hybrid classes will commence.

Students who will be studying **remotely** (entirely online) this term will be receiving all your course instruction via Zoom and other technologies. You will receive the same level of instruction and the same content as if you were studying on campus, just with a different delivery format. You will also have access to all of our academic support services that I just mentioned above. Our staff have been assisting students via Zoom since last spring, and we are able to offer you our full support as you pursue your studies remotely.

Residence Hall Move-in for the Spring Semester.

Residential students must sign up for a move-in time on one of the following dates:

Henniker Residential Students:

- Thursday, January 28th
- Friday, January 29th
- Saturday, January 30th

Manchester Residential Students :

- Saturday, January 30th
- Sunday, January 31st

Sign-ups for move-in times can be completed at the following link:

Manchester students:

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/IADMoveln@nec5.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>

Henniker students:

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/Spring2021HousingRetun@nec5.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>

Coronavirus Testing

Any student who is taking classes on campus, living on campus, or participating in any on-campus athletic-related activities must submit a negative coronavirus test result prior to their residence hall move in or, for commuter students, no later than January 29, 2021. This test must be taken within one week of the student's move-in date. All students who are coming to campus for classes and activities will also have to take part in our Systematic Testing Program. This program will require that you:

1. Get tested when you arrive to campus for your residence hall move-in or for your commuter student check-in. Commuter students may check-in and get tested at the following dates and times.
 1. Manchester – Testing check-in at French Hall
 1. Saturday, January 30, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 2. Sunday January 31, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 2. Henniker – testing check-in at the Lyons Center.
 1. Friday, January 29, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (preferred time)
 2. Thursday, January 28, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 3. Monday, January 25, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Note: Henniker students who cannot make any of the above-listed times can go to the Manchester campus for testing on Sunday, January 31, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Testing will be at French Hall (148 Concord Street, Manchester, NH) on that day.

2. After initial testing, get tested every 3 to 4 weeks throughout the semester, as assigned by our testing staff. Student athletes who are in season or engaging in ongoing team activities may need to get tested more often than that.

It is imperative that every student report to every required testing date and completes the testing process. Students who fail to do so will be required to leave campus and be changed to a remote (online) learning status. The Pilgrim's Promise, a document that clearly lists our coronavirus-related policies, lists the testing requirements and other important virus-related policies (including mask use and physical distancing guidelines). I encourage you read the Pilgrim's Promise carefully before your move-in process (a copy is attached to this email).

On-campus Residential Living

We continue to have a large portion of our students living in our residence halls and houses on both campuses. We have continued to modify our move-in processes to allow for greater physical distancing during this busy time, and we have also changed our visitation/guest policies to reduce the chances of viral spread in the residence halls. The Pilgrim's Promise includes policies concerning mask use and physical distancing while in college-owned residences. Again, I encourage you read the copy of the Pilgrim's Promise attached to this email.

Required Health Records

It is required for all on-campus students to complete their required health paperwork before the semester starts. Residential students must complete these requirements before they can move into their residence hall/house. The requirements include:

1. Complete health history form
2. Complete informed consent form
3. Complete Tuberculosis (TB) risk assessment and, if needed, a blood test
4. Upload immunization records
5. Complete immunization information

All of these requirements must be completed in or submitted to the Medcat system that our Wellness Center uses for medical records. If you have questions about Medcat or any of these requirements, please email wellnesscenter@nec.edu for assistance.

Campus Dining

Chartwells Dining Services continue to offer students comprehensive dining options on both campuses, including three locations in Henniker (Gilmore Dining Hall, the Simon Center Café, and the Lyons Center Café) and the Dining Hall in Manchester. At the start of the semester, all meals will be offered to-go, with no dining room options, but we plan to offer expanded meal options after the first two weeks of the term.

As you can see, our staff are well prepared to welcome you back, and we hope you take advantage of all our services and programs. Please feel free to contact our staff with any questions that you may have. I hope you enjoy the rest of the break, and you have my best wishes for a great spring semester.

Sincerely,

Jason Buck
Dean of Students

Luis Rosa
Associate VP of Student Affairs