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**New England College Plans to Open Henniker and Manchester Campuses for In-Person Learning This Fall**

**Henniker, NH (May 8, 2020)** – New England College (NEC) is pleased to announce its plan to open its campuses in Henniker and Manchester, New Hampshire, this fall for in-person learning. After deciding to move classes online on March 13, the college is preparing to reopen its doors August 24, 2020 to over 1,000 new and returning residential undergraduates.

NEC President, Dr. Michele Perkins said, “We are very fortunate to be in New Hampshire, where the coronavirus has not been as widespread or devastating as other regions. Because of our location, our small class sizes, and the continuing efforts of our faculty and staff to ensure the safety of our students, New England College plans to be open this fall for in-person living, teaching, and learning.

“We consult regularly with health experts and government officials who will help shape our planning to ensure the safest environment possible when we open campus. But rest assured, we plan to be open, and we will do everything we can to provide the best and most complete college experience our community has come to expect—all while ensuring the safety of our campus.”

Working closely with New Hampshire health officials, NEC expects to use several measures to ensure campus safety, including:

- Establishing hybrid learning where students or faculty who are at high risk or exhibit symptoms can continue to participate in classes while living remotely
- Conducting rigorous sanitation of all locations
- Staggering move-in times and dates
- Limiting capacity in the dining hall
- Maintaining social distancing in classrooms
- Refraining from public and large-scale events

Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Wayne Lesperance said, “Nothing can replace face-to-face interaction with students. We did have great success, however, moving two campuses and over 35 majors to remote learning in the span of two days. We’ve determined that it’s time for us

to come back together as a community, while still making our education available to those who may not be able to attend in person. This hybrid approach to learning ensures all of our students have access to the classes and faculty they know with the highest quality and individual attention they've come to expect from us. After all, it is a well-established fact that the best environment for a traditional college student is in a classroom, face to face with well credentialed faculty and fellow students.”

“The health and safety of NEC’s students, faculty, staff, and guests will remain our top priority, as we make decisions on a wide range of campus activities,” added Lesperance. “NEC will adapt our instructional and residential life models and on-campus events, as needed, to protect the members of our campus community while continuing to offer the distinct college experience that is New England College.”

This spring, NEC has worked diligently to mitigate any threat to students, faculty, and staff. In the weeks ahead, NEC will fine tune its plans to ensure a safe, productive educational environment for everyone on campus for the fall semester. “We will, of course, continue to follow updated state and federal guidance as we proceed with plans to open responsibly on August 24,” said President Perkins. “While some things will understandably be different, NEC’s commitment to a quality educational experience for every student remains unwavering.”

### **About New England College**

Founded in 1946, New England College (NEC) was established to serve the needs of servicemen and women attending college on the G.I. Bill after World War II. Today, it serves over 3,000 undergraduate, graduate, and online students annually on our campuses in Henniker and Manchester, New Hampshire. NEC offers 37 Bachelor’s degree programs, 12 Master’s degree programs, and a doctoral program, all delivered by dedicated and accomplished faculty in the liberal arts tradition, and with an emphasis on experiential learning. New England College is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education. For more information, visit [www.nec.edu](http://www.nec.edu).

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