



## Fall Opening FAQ

NEC's Henniker and Manchester campuses will be open for in-person learning this fall and are considering 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.
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.

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 our new code of conduct include:

1. All community members will be required to wear masks while in public. Don't worry, we will provide an official NEC mask to you.
2. All community members will be required to gather in groups of 10 or fewer persons. No large gatherings (more than 10) are permitted.
3. No visitors will be allowed on campus unless as part of educational or operational business.

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.

### **Pilgrimage and Orientation Days for New Students**

#### **Will the college still host Pilgrimage Days?**

Yes. NEC Pilgrimage for this year will be conducted two ways. First, we will have scheduled remote sessions via Zoom for Henniker-based students on July 14 and 22, 2020. Institute of Art and Design students can participate in remote Pilgrimage on July 15 and 23, 2020. If students miss those Pilgrimage dates, we will have another opportunity for them to work at their own pace through an online recorded Pilgrimage.

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

Orientation will take place face to face and remotely depending on whether students join us on campus or remain remote. We are finalizing details for scheduling purposes and will update this FAQ soonest. This year, the face-to-face orientation will focus on small group (10 or fewer) and individual sessions consistent with CDC guidelines.

### **Admissions and Financial Aid**

#### **Given the current pandemic crisis, might NEC plan to have periodic virtual sessions with students in June and July 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?**

Admitted 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 been exposed, is awaiting testing, or actually gets sick, 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 who may have been exposed will follow proper protocol and will be monitored by the Wellness Center.

### **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. We will also offer outside dining as the weather permits. The dining hall will also begin a new "grab and go" venue to allow for a variety of snacks and drinks to be purchased.

### **How will you manage moving into the dorms?**

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. There will be a sign-up process to coordinate; students will choose a window of time to move in. We will also be allowing students to drop off belongings, but not stay, in the earlier part of the move-in process. Please note that all students will need to ensure their Wellness and Health Services paperwork is 100% complete before they move in. 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 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?**

The College will not conduct testing. We plan to contract with a healthcare provider to offer access to testing, either on campus or at a nearby location. We are working with New Hampshire health authorities to establish the appropriate intervals for testing students and staff who are non-symptomatic. Anyone symptomatic will be directed immediately for testing and appropriate medical intervention.

**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 are from a driving distance of three hours. Those students who are from farther away will be placed in quarantine housing and monitored by Wellness Services on campus. 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 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 virtual counseling.

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

Yes. The college's emergency plans include a pandemic protocol that covers, among other contingencies, the need for various modes of on-campus quarantine. Students and parents/families/guardians will receive information on procedures in case they are suspected, similar to past procedures to major flus or other communicable diseases—i.e., students who live closer to our campuses will go home, while those coming in from far away will be placed in special quarantined housing.

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

Yes. Per CDC guidelines, NEC will require that masks be worn on campus when outside residence hall rooms.

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

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

**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**

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

You may continue to hold jobs off campus, although you must remain in the State of New Hampshire.

### **Is work study still offered?**

At this time, there may be limited work study positions available on campus. Once we have these open positions available, we will communicate to qualified students.

### **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?**

No non-NEC visitors will be permitted in campus housing.

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

Students should limit their travel off campus while following NH state guidance on local travel. Students who have been approved to live on campus may not travel outside of NH overnight. Doing so will forfeit the right to retain on-campus housing and dining. Urgent travel should be brought to the attention of [reslife@nec.edu](mailto:reslife@nec.edu).

### **I am an international student and do not know if I will be able to obtain a visa.**

#### **What are my options?**

If you are unable to obtain a visa in time for the fall orientation, you can defer your enrollment to February or Fall 2021.