

SUNY Schenectady Surveillance Testing Plan

Given the recent spikes in COVID-19 cases being reported at our nation's Colleges and Universities, Governor Cuomo and the State University of New York (SUNY) requires all SUNY schools to establish on-campus testing protocols for the fall 2020 semester. While SUNY Schenectady requires everyone entering a campus building to complete a health assessment and have their temperature checked, adding another measure to that protocol will increase our efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID as pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals can show no signs or symptoms and still infect others around them.

Campus Demographics:

SUNY Schenectady is a commuter college with no residence halls on campus. During the fall 2020 semester, approximately 525 students are on campus for in-person lab classes each week, Monday through Saturday, with approximately 235 employees and 75 contractors and vendors, working a staggered schedule, on campus Sunday through Saturday each week. Five percent of our on-campus population is 42 individuals. While the high watermark for the total campus footprint per week, combining students, employees and contractors/vendors, is 835, there is variation in that number of individuals on campus on any given day, depending on the number of on-campus course sections scheduled on each day of the week.

Testing Types and Frequency:

SUNY Schenectady will pool test students who attend courses on campus. Students will complete mandated testing every two weeks throughout the fall 2020 semester. This will assist the College in identifying possible outbreaks before they become large scale and ensure the safety of our community and the communities of our students and staff through use of early detection. Each student will be sent a schedule listing dates and times when they will be required to be present for COVID-19 testing. The schedule will be sent to each student via email and placed on the College's website. To provide for additional redundancy, each faculty member teaching an on-campus course section will be provided with copies of the testing schedule to hand out to students in class, the schedule will be posted at the entry to each classroom used for on-campus courses sections, and a reminder text message will be sent to individual students each week.

SUNY Schenectady will test 50% of its student population taking on-campus classes each week on a rotation such that 100% of the student population taking on-campus courses will be tested every two weeks. The College will also encourage all on-campus employees to be tested according to the same rotation, 50% one week followed by the other 50% the next week. The College will use an opt out process for our employees who decline testing.

The College will not be using wastewater testing or individual testing.

Policy Statement:

SUNY Schenectady continues to take steps to protect the health and safety of the campus community. Because of the COVID-19 virus outbreak, all students taking at least one on-campus class will be required to submit to a COVID-19 saliva test every other week. This test will permit SUNY Schenectady to identify cases among students early and take steps to prevent further spread of the virus. Failure to submit to the campus testing protocols and schedule will result in a student's immediate removal from on-campus classes until the student completes testing.

Plan Logistics:

Ms. Sabrina McGinty, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, will be responsible for the logistics regarding the site set-up, chain of custody for testing materials, training of testing personnel and PPE procurement. Mr. Edmund McTernan, Executive Director for Human Resources and Mr. Michael Munger, Director of Campus Safety will serve as backup to Sabrina McGinty in the case she is unavailable.

Ms. McGinty will train testing personnel in sample tracking and collection as well as proper handling, storage and transport of testing materials. Training for testing personnel will be completed via web conference one week prior to the start of pool testing. All testing staff will be required to complete the training before being permitted to work. SUNY Schenectady will perform testing Monday – Saturday to accommodate all on-campus students and employees.

The College will staff one site on our main campus for use by all students taking credit courses. For noncredit Workforce Development students, the College will use its Center City and Albany locations for testing. Ms. McGinty will coordinate with Ms. Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Project Manager of Workforce Development, to determine the schedule for testing of non-credit students. Workforce Development has approximately 40 individual students who will receive bi-weekly testing.

All testing site personnel will be provided with PPE (cloth facemasks, rubber gloves, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes). Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes will also be provided for the individuals being tested. The College will provide PPE via our college's Facilities Department. Any additional supplies beyond those available on-site will be ordered the week of September 8 to ensure they are received prior to testing.

Testing personnel will work four-hour daily shifts. We will test 50% of our student population on a Monday/Wednesday, Tuesday/Thursday and Friday/Saturday schedule. All pooled cohorts of students will be divided by Academic Program and class. SUNY Schenectady is currently isolating each academic program cohort by using separate entranceways into campus and keeping them isolated to specific buildings. We are confident our academic program cohort/class model will be the most reliable method in identifying possible clusters on campus.

In addition to pool testing for our on-campus populations, we are also working with Schenectady County Department of Health to use our parking lot as a testing site for our community. This will ensure our virtual students and staff the ability to also come to campus (identified by their student ID) to be tested free of charge via the county drive thru testing site.

Employee Testing:

Participation in the COVID-19 Pool Testing is optional for employees. SUNY Schenectady will highly encourage all employees who work on campus to participate, but unless we are otherwise directed by state or local authorities, employee participation cannot be mandated.

The College will presume that all employees will want to participate. If someone does not wish to participate, they will be asked to complete and submit an opt out form to the Office of Human Resources. The opt out form will be attached to the announcement email and will be available on our COVID-19 Webpage.

Isolation and Quarantine Protocol:

SUNY Schenectady is fully a commuter campus. If a cohort is determined to have a positive member, we will reach out to members of the cohort and recommend isolation in accordance with the CDC guidelines. We will be in contact with the Schenectady County Department of Health to inform them of the positive individual and cohort information. We will provide all members of the cohort the CDC information regarding isolation and the criteria for ending quarantine or isolation. As our cohorts will be identified by academic program and courses, all instruction for these students will move easily to a virtual format to ensure continuity of education for the cohort.

As SUNY Schenectady does not have residence halls, we do not have the capacity provide or coordinate isolation and quarantine processes for our students. If a student notifies SUNY Schenectady that they have tested positive and do not have a proper quarantine or isolation location, we will provide outside agency resources information to assist them in securing a proper quarantine or isolation location. We will also contact our local Department of Health regarding the isolation and quarantine difficulty of the student.

Plan Data Management:

Our point of contact will be Ms. Sabrina McGinty, Assistance Vice President for Student Affairs for testing data management. Ms. McGinty currently uploads our daily data to SUNY's Health Status Portal and serves as SUNY Schenectady's Campus Safety Monitor. Edmund McTernan, Executive Director of Human Resources will serve as a backup as point of contact for test data management.

Data collection methods will consist of each student being given a Personal Identification Number that will be used for the purposes of developing their testing schedule and identify the cohort for testing. Students will receive an email outlining the dates of their mandated testing. Students will appear for testing in the Van Curler Room. The Van Curler Room provides a space large enough for social distancing, space for students to line up for the testing and one-way traffic flow.

SUNY Schenectady does not currently have an IT platform for reporting the results of the testing. Our current method for tracking is through an Excel spreadsheet. As our on-campus population is small, using Excel is a manageable method. Ms. McGinty manages this spreadsheet for students and Mr. Edmund McTernan, Executive Director of Human Resources for employees. SUNY Schenectady has a campus COVID-19 dashboard, which is updated daily with COVID-19 infection data. This dashboard can be found at <https://sunysccc.edu/About-Us/Campus-Safety/COVID-19/index.html>.

Contact Tracing:

SUNY Schenectady does not have contact tracers on our campus. As a commuter school, we look to our County Health Department to provide contact tracing. SUNY Schenectady has been in communication with our local health department and will continue to communicate with our local Department of Health.

SUNY Schenectady has five employees who have completed the Contact Tracing with Schenectady County. These employees can be called upon by the Department of Health, if necessary, to assist with contact tracing needs.