

## What Students Should Know: COVID-19 and Returning to Campus

As we return to campus in Spring 2021, SUNY Cobleskill's first priority is the health and safety of our campus community. The best way to maintain the safest environment possible throughout 2021 and beyond is for each of us to take steps to minimize the risks, not only for ourselves but for all members of the SUNY community. This includes:

- wearing face coverings (masks)
- hand washing
- social distancing
- participating in testing and tracing
- completing daily screenings
- being mindful of our surroundings and the impact we have

Any of us alone can spread this disease and cause harm to others. But **all of us together can build a community that is safe and healthy**, where educational success is possible.

Here's what you need to know and do as SUNY Cobleskill welcomes students back to campus in 2021:

### Stay Informed

SUNY Cobleskill will proactively share information with students through these various methods. Please check each regularly to stay informed of the latest developments on campus.

- [College Website](#). Home of official COVID-19 plans, updates, and data.
- **Campus Email**
- **Campus Text Message**. Used for non-urgent timely communications.
- **Everbridge Emergency Texts and Emails**. Used when communication must be timely. [Sign-up information](#).
- **Live Virtual Campus Forums**. Regular updates on topics around campus in which students can participate and ask questions.
- **Social Media**. [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

### Return to Campus Safely – Testing and Isolation Requirements

All students living, working, or taking classes on campus, or utilizing campus facilities must test for COVID-19 when they return for the spring semester. Students must first confirm that they have completed a seven-day precautionary quarantine prior to returning to campus. They must then either present evidence of a negative COVID-19 test taken within three days prior to their return or submit to a campus-administered test upon arrival—but no later than two days after their return to campus.

## **Get Screened Daily**

**Everyone coming to campus must complete a daily health screening beginning January 14, 2021, using the [this form](#).**

## **Get Tested Regularly**

SUNY Cobleskill will resume weekly surveillance testing for students, faculty, and staff as on-campus services resume. Participation in this testing is mandatory for any students who live on campus or who are taking on-campus courses and/or using campus facilities.

Quarantine (those suspected of having COVID-19) will take place in a designated residence hall that has been taken offline for residential students, and isolation (for those diagnosed with COVID-19) will take place in an Alumni Commons Town Home. Pending directives of the Schoharie County Department of Health, the College may quarantine students to their respective residential rooms while awaiting test results.

A Case Manager will coordinate students' needs in quarantine and isolation with a cadre of staff assistants. Coordination includes, but is not limited to, Wellness appointments and well-being checks, academic assistance (tutoring services via CASE), food service delivery via dining services, and online engagement programming.

A wastewater/sewerage testing system will continue to monitor for COVID-19. If there are changes in baseline tests, then as feasible, we may conduct pooled testing in impacted areas.

“Event” testing of symptomatic individuals will be performed at the campus Wellness Center and/or at Cobleskill Regional Hospital.

## **Check the COVID-19 Dashboards**

### **[SUNY Dashboard](#)**

SUNY maintains a comprehensive dashboard of COVID-19 testing and infection rate status across the system and at each campus.

### **[Schoharie County Resources](#)**

The Schoharie County Department of Health has compiled a database of COVID-19 resources and detailed information on the local pandemic response.

## **Be Responsible – It’s Easy to Do Your Part**

Each of us can take small steps to protect ourselves and the campus community. Because COVID-19 is highly contagious, these simple measures apply **both on and off-campus**:

- **Wear face coverings** (masks) at all times on campus, including in classrooms, conference rooms and other public spaces, even when you are able to maintain six feet of social distancing.
  - Exceptions to this requirement include when students are (1) in their private residential or personal space, (2) eating meals on-campus while seated, or (3) by themselves in a lightly trafficked location where no other persons are present. Faculty and staff are likewise exempt when alone in their office or other private spaces.
- **Regularly wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and use hand sanitizer where soap and water are not available.
- **Stay home when you are sick** or have potentially been exposed to COVID-19.
- **Practice social distancing** at all times to reduce transmission.

### **If Exposed, Complete Mandatory Quarantine and Isolation**

Students who test positive for COVID-19, have been exposed to individuals who tested positive for COVID-19, or are informed by a state or local health department, or medical or campus official that they are “at risk” for having COVID-19 may be required to quarantine or isolate. This may include taking classes remotely, and not going to dining halls and other campus facilities. The campus has specific information about restrictions that may be found here: <https://bit.ly/2VrKfVH>. Students identified for quarantine and isolation (whether residential or non-residential) will have access to certain assistance, including psychosocial, academic and/or other supports, as needed.

### **Follow the Rules or Face Disciplinary Action**

All students are required to attest to their commitment to “the Pledge” ([available here, under On-Campus Policies](#)). When the campus learns of a violation of the rules associated with COVID-19 safety, students may lose access to campus facilities and/or campus housing. Other disciplinary actions may be taken by the Student Conduct and/or Human Resources Offices. Student conduct is governed by the campus [Code of Conduct](#). Minimum sanctions are outlined in the [Uniform Sanctioning in Response to COVID-19 Student Violations](#). Consistent with SUNY policy, students who are partially or completely removed from the institution due to a violation are not eligible for refunds.

### **Take Care of Yourself – Physically and Mentally**

We understand that this is an exceptionally challenging time. SUNY has resources to help you get the support you need.

- [The Beard Wellness Center at SUNY Cobleskill](#). Offers students health care, mental health counseling, and links to crisis counseling services.
- [ReachOut SUNY](#). NYS COVID-19 Emotional Support Line is staffed by specially trained volunteers who can help.
- [Thriving Campus](#). Connecting students with off-campus mental health referrals near campus
- [Middle Earth](#). Peer Assistance Program from the University at Albany.
- New York State Office of Mental Health Crisis Text Line: Text **GOT5** to **741741**.

### **Understand What’s Being Offered On-Campus and Online**

Courses for the spring semester, along with their mode of delivery, are listed here: <https://bit.ly/39AgKt7>. Barring unforeseen circumstances, SUNY Cobleskill plans to offer more than 40 percent of courses in a face-to-face format. The vast majority of classes will meet during the days/times published in the master schedule. Any exceptions will be communicated.

### **Get Instructional and Technology Help**

[The Center for Academic Support and Excellence \(CASE\)](#) is our central location for student support services. CASE offers subject-specific tutoring as well as programs and workshops on learning strategies such as note-taking, test-taking, textbook reading, and time management.

Remote learning assistance is also available through the [Online Education office](#) and the [ITS Helpdesk](#).

### **Request Accommodations for Disabilities**

AccessABILITY Resources (AR) is located in the Center for Academic Support & Excellence (CASE), Van Wagenen Library lower level. You can reach them at 518-255-5282 or by emailing [dss@cobleskill.edu](mailto:dss@cobleskill.edu).

### **Follow Housing and Dining Updates**

Information on residence hall policies and updates on dining services for the spring semester can be found under the Residential Living menu tab of the College's [COVID-19 webpage](#).

### **If We Have to PAUSE**

If the campus must switch to a two-week (or longer) pause, the following will apply:

Our campus will increase enforcement of evidence-based COVID-19 safety guidelines and will boost academic support services to ensure a successful shift to temporary remote learning. Our efforts will seek to minimize disruption to coursework during such a transition.

Enhanced social distancing measures will be introduced, including the requirement that campus movement by resident students and employees be limited to only essential needs.

SUNY Cobleskill students will only be allowed to leave campus and return home with the approval of the Schoharie County Department of Health. If a student leaves, they will be subject to the same policies governing the return to campus from winter break (above) upon their return. This may include a seven-day precautionary quarantine and completion of a negative COVID-19 test.

### **If We Have to Pivot to Remote Instruction, Follow This Plan**

Should the campus move to remote operations, all instruction will move to remote delivery, and students will be advised of any pause in the delivery of instruction. Campus offices will remain open, although most personnel will be working remotely. Plans for residence hall move-outs will be communicated with students through the methods described above. SUNY Cobleskill will seek guidance from the Schoharie County Department of Health and SUNY System Administration throughout any necessary transition.

**Changes and Updates:** The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic creates a fluid situation that may require unexpected changes in our response. Updates to scientific knowledge, public health guidance, or laws and regulations may mean SUNY and SUNY Cobleskill have to make changes to our standards and rules, including those indicated above. SUNY and SUNY Cobleskill will try to minimize these changes and their impact. We will keep you informed of new developments.

Thank you in advance for everything you are doing and will do to make 2021 safe for you, your fellow students, and the campus community and beyond.