

In an effort to ensure the continued safety of our on-campus community, Dutchess Community College is conducting pooled testing that was developed and validated by SUNY Upstate Medical Center. As a result of the internal SUNY testing capability, SUNY Administration is requiring every campus to establish and implement a COVID-19 testing plan.

During the fall semester, students with an on-campus course will receive an email or communication that they have been selected to participate in pooled testing. They will be provided with a date, time frame and location to be present for pool testing. **Testing is mandatory for students once selected and contacted. Failure to test will impact your ability to be on campus and will subject you to SUNY sanctions.** Please see [Memo from Chancellor Malatras](#) which outlines the expectations for sanctions for students who do not comply with the testing requirements.

The self-administered pooled test is quick and easy – the individual simply swabs the inside of their mouth and provides the saliva sample to staff to be sent to Upstate Medical Center. The saliva from 12 individuals is pooled together and tested. If the results are negative, no further action is necessary. If the results are positive for COVID-19, further testing of the individual saliva samples is conducted to identify the individual(s).

[A video of the collection method is available here.](#)

Pooled testing will be conducted in conjunction with the online required Student Health Screening Survey tool, which is already required before arriving on campus and must be completed before testing.

Individuals who have had suspected exposure to COVID-19 or who are symptomatic (based on daily Student Health Screening Survey Screening tool to be on campus) should not be on campus, will be excluded from pooled testing, and should contact their health care provider.

If Selected and Contacted:

At least 24 hours in advance: You will need to create a COVID-19 Pooled Testing Account and complete your profile at least 24 hours before testing.

There will be a testing station set up in Drumlin Hall. Social distancing will be strictly maintained.

On the day of testing:

3 hours prior: Do not brush your teeth or use mouthwash for **at least three hours** before your testing.

30 minutes prior: Do not eat or drink anything, including chewing gum, mints or lozenges, **within 30 minutes of testing.** Abstain from smoking, vaping, or using smokeless tobacco products for 30 minutes prior to the test.

You must bring your Dutchess Community College ID and personal mobile device. If you do not have a smart phone or tablet, one will be provided at the testing site but you must have created your account and completed your profile in advance.

The current plan is for the testing hours to be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and/or 4 to 6 p.m. on the following dates. There are no walk-ins; you will be given an appointment.

Monday October 5

Wednesday October 7th

Monday October 12th – No classes

Wednesday October 14th (Monday Make – Up)

Tuesday October 20th

Thursday October 22nd

Tuesday October 27th

Thursday October 29th

Monday November 2nd

Wednesday November 4th

Monday November 9th

Wednesday November 11th

Tuesday November 17th

Thursday November 19th

Tuesday November 24th

When you are tested as part of the pooled testing plan, you may continue normal activities (with strict adherence to mask wearing and social distancing) unless you are contacted with additional instructions. If you test positive, you will be notified, instructed to isolate and speak to your health care provider. The County will be notified and contact tracing will be implemented immediately. If you are symptom-free, you should continue to participate in your remote classes. If you are someone who has been in contact with an individual who tests positive, you also will be advised to isolate for 14 days. Your faculty member will work with the administration on a case-by-case basis to determine next steps in terms of other cohorts within that class who have not been exposed and future actions.

Testing is NOT a substitute for prevention measures. Even with this new testing program, you will need to continue physical distancing, wearing face coverings, washing hands frequently, using Student Health Screening Survey tool to report your health status, and staying home if you experience COVID-like symptoms. These are all essential to our work as a community to continue fighting the spread of COVID-19.

If you are contacted to participate in testing and have questions or concerns, please contact the Health Office at (845) 431-8075 or Dean of Student Services Office (845) 431-8970.

Students will be contacted with their scheduled testing in advance (via myDCC email) and reminded about pooled testing preparation (e.g., no eating or drinking within 30 minutes of test). Some students will be testing before class, others when class is over. Everyone selected to test and contacted will be required to pre-register for the test as part of the process. There is no charge for the initial pooled testing for students.

Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this as we work together with SUNY to minimize the spread of Covid-19 and do our part to keep our community healthy.

Pooled Surveillance Testing

In an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Dutchess Community College is conducting pooled surveillance testing in collaboration with SUNY Upstate Medical Center. The test is quick and easy – you simply swab the inside of your mouth and provide the saliva sample to staff to be sent to SUNY Upstate Medical Center for testing.

All students that have one or more classes ON CAMPUS are required to participate. Employees are included, but not mandated to participate.

This mandatory testing takes place in Drumlin Hall and students will be notified by an email sent to their DCC email account with a date and time for testing.

COVID-19 Pooled Surveillance Testing FAQs

Who is required to be tested?

All students who are enrolled in one or more on-campus, in-person classes are required to participate in the pooled surveillance testing.

Where will the testing be conducted?

Testing will take place in Drumlin Hall East Cafeteria. Social distancing will be strictly adhered to.

How often will students be tested?

Students will be scheduled on a rotating basis throughout the semester.

Am I required to test on a specific day?

Yes, you will be notified of your appointment via your campus email. Every effort is being made to have appointments coincide with the day you are on campus for class.

How do students register for pooled surveillance testing?

Students that are required to participate in testing will be emailed a link to use for registering when they receive their testing date and time frame. Please use a personal computer or personal electronic device (phone or tablet) to complete the registration process in advance of the testing appointment. Students are to complete their registration at least 24 hours before testing.

Is there a cost to participate?

There is no cost to students to participate in the pooled surveillance testing. If you are part of a “presumed positive” pool result, further laboratory testing (a reflex test) is conducted with the same sample and your medical insurance will be billed. Dutchess Community College is absorbing the cost of testing that is not covered by health insurance plans.

What do I need to bring with me on the day of testing?

Anyone being tested must bring their college ID card and personal electronic device to complete the testing process. If you do not have a smart phone or tablet, one will be provided at the testing site.

Can I eat and drink before my test?

Do not eat or drink anything, including chewing gum, mints or lozenges, within 30 minutes of reporting for testing. You should abstain from smoking, vaping, or using smokeless tobacco products for 30 minutes prior to the test.

What about brushing my teeth?

You should not brush your teeth or use mouthwash within **three hours prior** to your test.

How long will the test take?

The test is quick and easy – you simply swab the inside of your mouth and provide the saliva sample to staff to be sent to Upstate Medical Center for testing. The entire process is expected to take about 10 minutes once you have checked in. Please know if you are testing prior to the start of a class, you should allow yourself at least 30 minutes to check in, test and arrive to class on time.

Can I attend classes in-person/go to work on campus if I am awaiting the results of my pooled COVID-19 test?

You can continue to attend in-person on-campus activities as you await surveillance test results.

What happens if I am part of a pooled COVID-19 test that is presumed negative?

You will be notified only if you are part of a positive pooled test.

What happens if I am part of a pooled COVID 19 test that is presumed positive?

If a pool comes back presumed positive, SUNY Upstate will reprocess the pool and identify the positive individual.

The student who tested positive would be notified and will be asked to self-quarantine.

Is there a video to better explain the process?

Yes! <https://vimeo.com/447268833/5229da41b6>