



**Winter and Spring Terms 2021
Academic Continuity and the
Health and Safety of Students, Faculty, and Staff Policy**

The State of New York and the entire nation continue to face unprecedented health challenges because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, SUNY continues to operate under a state public health emergency. To maintain the highest level of public health and safety, the following health and safety protocols have been put in place at Dutchess Community College. As federal, state, or local health guidance changes, the DCC guidance will be updated to conform accordingly.

1. COVID-19 Testing and Monitoring

A. Departing Campus in Fall

In coordination with the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health, the College implemented mandatory saliva pool testing of all students participating in an on-campus class and/or services. Our faculty and staff were strongly encouraged to participate in the testing that resulted in an 80% compliance across the campus community.

B. Students Remaining on Campus

Dutchess Community College has had no residential students for the 2020/21 academic year and will have no students on campus for the winter session.

C. Returning to Campus for Winter and Spring Terms Testing and Isolation Requirements

All classes for the winter term are remote, staff working on campus participated in bi-weekly pool testing during the winter break in accordance with our previously submitted testing plan.

At this time, it is estimated that we will have approximately 800 students taking some portion of their program on campus during the spring semester. It is expected that there will be approximately 250 staff and faculty on campus.

DCC has a limited number of clinicals and applied learning classes starting on January 19 that have previously been submitted to SUNY for approval. The students and faculty in these classes will receive daily emails with the DCC Health Screening survey beginning two weeks prior to

their coming to campus. Anyone with known contact with COVID-19 positive individuals, or of any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or of a positive test result for COVID-19 must notify the Dean of Students office or Human Resources, if they are a staff member (this notification to campus does not replace reporting to a health care provider or local health department).

Students must present evidence of a negative COVID-19 test taken within three (3) days prior to returning to campus or they will be required to participate in on-campus COVID-19 pool testing as soon as possible but no later than five (5) days of returning to campus. This initial testing is in addition to the weekly pool testing that will go on throughout the spring semester. Results from an off-campus test must be sent to the Dean of Students office within the time period previously stated. This initial testing is not required if a student presents documentation of a positive diagnostic result for COVID-19 from the prior 3-month period.

Prior to any student returning for one or more classes or to utilize services on campus (e.g. open lab, in-person tutoring), or work on campus, they are required to submit an attestation that they have completed a seven-day precautionary quarantine. There will be a student precautionary quarantine survey sent to students that will track responses and allow for follow-up to ensure compliance.

Limited exemptions will be granted to commuter students who work and need the ability to work while quarantining at home. For this group, the student will need to apply for the exemption from the Dean of Students office and must document the COVID-19 safety protocols of their employer. The exemption will only apply to their ability to work. When not working, the students will be expected to quarantine from others. DCC will keep specific information on the number of exemptions approved for the semester and be able to report to SUNY system.

DCC is continuing our successful surveillance pool testing program utilizing the Upstate Medical laboratory throughout the break for staff working on campus. Testing will be scheduled for those students and faculty that will be taking clinicals in January beginning one week prior to the start of their classes in accordance with previously stated testing requirements. Mandatory weekly surveillance testing will be conducted Monday – Friday from that point forward on a walk-in basis for students, faculty and staff to ensure that we meet the testing requirements for the spring semester. Testing is mandatory for students and the College continues to expect our faculty and staff to participate in testing. Due to contractual issues, we are unable to mandate testing for employees.

Pool tests results are monitored and test results, both negative and positive are promptly emailed to the individual. The Dean of Students office and Human Resources follow up with individuals within a positive test pool and then with the individual(s) that are determined to be positive. DCC assists the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health with contact tracing and data entry into the NYS CommCare Contact Tracing System. The campus follows all [CDC guidelines for testing, screening and outbreak response for Higher Education](#).

Students, faculty and staff who have traveled to/from restricted states/regions or to/from international locations as defined by New York State must follow the [New York State Travel Advisory](#) and attest that they have submitted the [New York Traveler Health form](#) and will follow the guidance of the governing local health department related to mandatory testing, quarantine/isolation, and timing of returning to campus. Questions about travel are included on the DCC Health Screening survey that is required to be filled out daily beginning two weeks prior to returning to campus.

2. Mode of Instruction

A. Winter 2020-21 term

Instruction for the winter term must be fully remote.

B. Spring 2021 term

The majority of spring semester classes are being taught remotely. There is a very limited number of clinical practicums and applied learning classes that will start on January 19, the request for approval of the early on campus start of those courses has been submitted to the SUNY Provost's office.

Spring term instruction will be remote prior to February 1 in order to minimize additional risks associated with influenza season. The courses that have an on-campus component will begin after February 1 and follow previously outlined protocols.

All modes of on campus instruction ensures safe density, consistent with New York State and the governing local health department guidelines. DCC is prepared to execute fully remote plans if the campus meets the threshold for a mandatory pause on in-person instruction as outlined in the [Supplemental Higher Education guidance](#) from the New York State Department of Health.

C. Remote Instruction

Dutchess Community College continues to work together with campus governance processes and in collaboration with its faculty and support staff, to ensure that remote instruction meets or exceeds expectations of regular and substantive interaction. Currently, 21% of our spring semester classes will have an on-campus component. This number will be adjusted as we get closer to the start of the spring semester.

Our faculty provide opportunities for substantive interactions with our students on a predictable and regular basis commensurate with both the length of time, and the amount of content, in the course or competency. The faculty monitor the student's academic engagement and success, are responsible for promptly and proactively engaging in substantive interaction with the student when needed on the basis of such monitoring, or upon request by the student.

At this point in time, DCC has no international students completing coursework in different time zones.

The Office of Accommodative Services has worked with faculty in order to equip them with the knowledge and skill to support remote learning of students with disabilities. Students who wish to disclose covered disabilities and receive reasonable accommodations for their disabilities are instructed to contact the Office of Accommodative Services. The staff in OAS are committed to providing equal access and an inclusive campus community by providing accessibility services and advocacy for individuals with disabilities. Services to students are being provided remotely via video conferencing, telephone or email. Additional information for our students is available on the myDCC link for the [Office of Accommodative Services](#).

The Mary Louise Teaching and Learning Center took the lead in ensuring that the faculty had orientation and training opportunities to familiarize them with instructional technologies and remote pedagogies, especially the faculty for whom such technologies/pedagogies are new.

As students continue their studies at DCC whether remote or on campus, they are relying on Academic, Career and Transfer (ACT) coaches to deliver academic, career and transfer guidance and programming that continues to expose them to a variety of occupational and scholastic opportunities. The ACT Center works with faculty, staff and the community to ensure that all students have a quality educational experience whether they are remote, hybrid or on campus for instruction. Due to COVID-19, the ACT Center is offering academic, career and transfer services remotely.

3. Academic Calendar

A. Spring Term Start Dates

In-person instruction for spring term shall not occur on campuses prior to February 1, with the exception of those classes previously submitted to and approved by the SUNY Provost.

B. Spring Break

Dutchess Community College has removed the Spring Break from the academic calendar.

C. Commencement

DCC has not yet determined how commencement exercises will be handled at the end of this academic year. The decision will take into consideration the guidance from New York State. Once that decision has been made we will begin to plan and message virtual commencements and/or safely distanced methods of recognition and degree dissemination for our graduates.

On-campus Activities

All campus non-academic activities are being done remotely. All classes or labs being held on campus are in well-ventilated areas. Enhanced cleaning protocols will continue and follow those stated in our fall opening plan.

A. Face Coverings (Masks)

Face coverings (masks) must be worn by all members of the campus community on campus at all times, including in classrooms, conference rooms and other spaces, even when six-foot social distancing exists. Faculty and staff are only exempt when alone in their office or other space. Any request for a medical, religious, or other accommodation to this policy is reviewed on an individual basis in accordance with relevant laws and campus procedures.

B. Compliance

The Chancellor's [Uniform Sanctioning in Response to COVID-19 Student Violations](#) implementing uniform sanctions system-wide for COVID-19 related violations, remains in effect for the winter and spring 2021 terms and is referenced on myDCC and the DCC [Our COVID Response](#).

C. Mental Health Supports, Services and Referrals

Given the unprecedented times for students, DCC strives to support mental health services among our campus community. We provide 24-hour telehealth counseling to support our students with their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

- i. Promote on-campus and community-based mental health treatment and resources, including:
 - a) [ReachOut SUNY](#).
 - b) [Thriving Campus](#).
 - c) [Middle Earth](#) from the University at Albany.
- ii. Highlight therapy groups and other peer-to-peer support strategies
- iii. Advertise the availability of crisis services, including Crisis Text Line, including: NYS OMH Crisis Text Line: Text **GOT5 to 741741**
- iv. Publicize the availability of free online [QPR suicide prevention training](#) for students, faculty and staff.

4. Reporting

A. Daily Dashboard

DCC updates the SUNY COVID-19 Tracker Dashboard daily reporting the total number of tests saliva pool tests completed and any positive tests.

5. What Students Should Know: Transparency

The campus will disseminate to our students utilizing the template provide by SUNY information on testing requirements; mandatory quarantine and isolation; uniform compliance; and the percentage of courses which will be offered in-person, and virtual so they can make informed decisions about their educational experience. It will include all required links as and information on policies and protocols. These communications are sent out to our students via email along with text messages to remind them to check their campus email accounts for updates. Updates to the campus website and myDCC will provide additional information for students, faculty and staff.

DCC has two Campus Safety Monitors, Bridgette Anderson, AVP for Facilities and Safety banderso@sunydutchess.edu and Esther Couret, AVP for Human Resources esther.couret@sunydutchess.edu.