

# Suffolk County Community College

## College Brief

NO. 56            January 25, 2022

TO:                The College Community

FROM:            Dr. Lauren Tacke-Cushing, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT:        Updates for Spring 2022

As we welcome back more students to our campuses than we have in two years, I wanted to provide a couple of updates for the spring semester.

### **Masking on Campus:**

Please know that a recent ruling relaxing universal masking for public schools does *not* apply to SUNY colleges and universities. A message reinforcing this for all students is also going out today. Suffolk County Community College will continue to require face coverings/masks for all students, employees, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, inside all college buildings, including classrooms, labs, common spaces, and facilities, as well as in crowded outdoor settings and venues. All members of our community should continue to share mutual responsibility for mask compliance that protects our public health.

### **Attendance:**

For guidance on attendance, please refer to the course syllabus statement. As always, faculty may use flexibility in determining allowed student absences. However, the attendance expectation for successful completion of the course should be clearly stated in the course syllabus. We anticipate that positive case rates among students may be high as we begin the semester. Students should be reminded to contact their instructor(s) as soon as possible if they miss class for any illness to discuss the possibility of reasonable adjustments that might need to be made. Faculty members should discuss potential exceptions and unusual situations related to this issue with their academic chairs. As a reminder, medical documentation is protected under FERPA and HIPAA and should not be requested from students.

### **Class Continuity:**

All college employees have been advised not to come to campus if you do not feel well. Upon testing or receiving a positive COVID-19 test contact [covid@sunysuffolk.edu](mailto:covid@sunysuffolk.edu). You will be notified of your approval to return to campus after the appropriate self-isolation period. If a faculty member has tested positive and is required to isolate for 5 days and it exceeds their weekly absence allowance (i.e 3<sup>rd</sup> absence) they will be compensated through a federal COVID-19 pay statute and will not need to use accruals to be paid. Questions or concerns should be directed to HR for further guidance.

In anticipation that there will be increased positivity rates we are following substitution protocol this week:

- If a faculty member is mandated to quarantine for the first-class meeting, department chairs will make every effort to meet the class and disperse the syllabus for review.
- If the faculty member remains on quarantine for the second meeting of class (two day a week class), the chair will cancel the class.
- If the faculty member has greater extenuating conditions which prevent their return to class by the third-class meeting, the chair will attempt to arrange for a substitution.

For additional reference in providing options for making up missed instructional time please refer to the [Class Make-Up Policy For College Closings](#).

### **COVID-19 Testing:**

The COVID-19 [testing schedule](#) has been expanded in the spring 2022 semester. A vendor has been contracted by the College to provide the testing and will be adjusting as necessary to community needs in regards to time and availability. Students have been notified to register to test prior to arriving to the testing locations in order to expedite the process and reduce long wait times.

For information on employee testing please refer to the College Brief No. 55. You will receive an e-mail from [no-reply@cleared4work.com](mailto:no-reply@cleared4work.com) this week and be requested to set up a user profile.

### **Multi-Factor Authentication Service Implementation:**

On January 6, 2022 the college migrated to a unified identify management service called OneLogin. This Multi-Factor Authentication provides an additional security that reduces cyber-attacks and potential exposure of sensitive data. Instructions for registration of both self-service password reset and Multi-Factor Authentication can be viewed in the Suffolk Help Knowledge Base. The direct link to the Knowledge Base is:

<https://sunysuffolk.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/1913/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=137447>