

**SUNY Suffolk**  
**COVID-19 Pooled Surveillance Testing Plan**

**Amended**  
**September 22, 2020**

SUNY Suffolk administration, faculty and staff moved forward to work together and remain focused on the following SUNY guiding principles when developing the SUNY approved College Restart Plan:

- 1) Safety first.
- 2) Protect our core mission of academic excellence with available resources.
- 3) Maintain broadest access and affordability for all New Yorkers to higher education.
- 4) Sustain programming through academic and operational synergies.
- 5) Demonstrate agility in responding to the workforce needs of New York State.

Now, as we reopened our campuses for limited in-person courses this fall, as part of the State University of New York's COVID-19 containment and response strategy, and in response to the SUNY Chancellor's recent mandate to develop and implement a COVID-19 testing plan, SUNY Suffolk submits this Pooled Surveillance Testing Plan developed for each of our three campuses.

SUNY Suffolk will participate in the COVID-19 Pooled Surveillance Testing Plan offered by Upstate Medical University. Pooling is utilized in areas where the number of positive tests is expected to be low, as in Suffolk County. This testing is less expensive, less invasive, and has an average of a 24-48-hour turnaround. This test will allow us to provide sensitive, accurate, and rapid feedback about the presence of COVID-19 in saliva samples from the limited number of students attending classes on our campuses this fall. We will invite faculty and staff, working on campus this semester, to voluntarily participate as well.

On each of our three campuses, the pooled testing operations will be coordinated by the college-wide Associate Dean of the School of Nursing, ensuring that procedures and protocols are properly followed and staff is properly trained. The testing team will receive training and appropriate supervision under the direction of the College Associate Dean of the School of Nursing in accordance with the SUNY Upstate Medical Center pooled testing procedures.

The President's Chief of Staff will be the liaison to SUNY Upstate Medical Center for supplies and transportation of samples; and is our official liaison to the Suffolk County Department of Health for results and follow-up communications.

Details of the SUNY Suffolk Plan as required

***Frequency of testing and details of how the campus will conduct surveillance testing:***

- Each campus will test students attending in-person classes, and test athletic teams attending on-campus practices.
- Pooled testing allows for approximately 10-25 people to be screened in one test.
- The testing team will follow the detailed UMC and SUNY Pool Testing Procedures outlined in the SUNY Chancellor's email of 9/03/2020.
- The testing team, along with the Campus CEO and the College President, will notify students and invite teaching faculty (if they choose) to attend a testing session by class or major. The notification will include the link to register at: <http://register.suny-covid.com>
- Individuals will not be tested in more than one pool regardless of their course schedule or major.
- Testing will take place at the following locations by campus:

Ammerman -Babylon Student Center  
Grant -Captree Commons  
Eastern – Peconic Building

- Testing will begin on each campus the week of September 28 and continue through early December, allowing for a total of three tests for each cohort on each campus.
- Upstate indicates the cost per testing kit is \$15/pp, with reflex testing \$60pp.

***The number/percentage of students that will be tested over the course of the semester:***

As a three-campus, non-residential college we expect a maximum daily total population of approximately 585 students across all campuses at any one time. This number per campus is:  
149 students on the Grant Campus;  
67 students on the Eastern Campus;  
369 on the Ammerman campus.

The College will endeavor to test a sample of 500 students each week from our on-campus student population across the three campuses. This is intended to allow for testing of each student in our on-campus student population 2–3 times this semester, though some students in this population may only be on campus once.

***Other types of testing that the campus will undertake, including wastewater testing:***

No other type of COVID-19 testing will be conducted on the campuses at this time.

***The diagnostic testing protocol that will be used when there are positive COVID-19 tests on campus:***

- A negative test means that all 10-25 people in the pool sample are presumed at the time to be coronavirus-free.
  - SUNY Upstate will maintain a list of students and whether they were included in a pool which indicated “presumptive negative” or otherwise.
  - SUNY Upstate will report back to SUNY Suffolk the following information:
  - Students/Faculty/Staff who participated in the surveillance testing (including ID number, Last Name, First Name); and
  - Those Students/Faculty/Staff whose pooled sample tested "negative" will be indicated with a "presumptive negative" label.
- A positive test for the pool would mean every person in that group would need to be individually tested by a Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test or through reflex individual testing using the pooled specimens sent to SUNY Upstate.
  - SUNY Upstate will report back to SUNY Suffolk the following information:  
Students/Faculty/Staff who participated in the surveillance testing (including ID number, Last Name, First Name); and
  - Those Students/Faculty/Staff whose pooled sample tested "positive" will be indicated with a "positive" label.
  - Upon receipt of positive results, individuals in the pool will be notified to either isolate for up to 14 days or until individual testing provides negative COVID-19 results, whether this is through individual PCR testing or reflex testing using the pooled specimens sent to SUNY Upstate.
  - The College will refer these students and faculty to a testing center and their medical provider for appropriate follow-up care.
  - The College will continue to liaise with the Suffolk County Department of Health Services for contact tracing purposes and guidance on quarantine and isolation.

***Testing for faculty and staff:***

- Testing for staff working on campus will be voluntary. Staff participation will be managed by the Assistant Vice President of Human Resources, utilizing the campus testing sites.