

TESTING AND COVID RESPONSE PROTOCOLS

REQUIRED AND OPTIONAL COVID SURVEILLANCE TESTING

Our mandatory COVID-19 surveillance testing program was established to monitor the populations known to be most vulnerable. Students and employees with an approved vaccination exemption (medical or religious) and those who are partially vaccinated, until they reach fully vaccinated status, are most vulnerable to severe COVID-19 illness if they become infected. Students and employees with a vaccination exemption or those who are not yet fully vaccinated must test every week. In addition, all residence students and student athletes are required to test weekly.

Testing Schedule

<u>Student type If you are a</u>	<u>Is weekly COVID testing required?</u>	<u>Where should I get tested?</u>	<u>Day of the Week I Need to Test</u>	<u>Testing hours</u>	<u>How do I make an appointment?</u> <u>These links are specific to the student type indicated.</u>
Vaccinated 1 Court Resident	YES	1 Court	Monday	11am-4pm or 5pm-8pm	CLICK HERE
Vaccinated Miller Resident	YES	Miller	Monday	11am-4pm or 5pm-8pm	CLICK HERE
Vaccinated Smith Resident	YES	Smith	Tuesday	11am-4pm or 5pm-8pm	CLICK HERE
Vaccinated 10 West/Modern Resident	YES	10 West/Modern	Tuesday	11am-4pm or 5pm-8pm	CLICK HERE
In-season Resident or Commuter Student Athlete	YES	Ridgeway	Schedule dictated by Athletics staff	See Coach	See Coach
Resident or a Commuter with a Medical or Religious Exemption to COVID vaccination	YES	Amenities Center, First Floor, 73 Tremont Street	Wednesdays	7am- 12:30pm or 1:30pm-7pm	CLICK HERE
Resident or a Commuter Who Is Not Yet Fully Vaccinated	YES	Amenities Center, First Floor, 73 Tremont Street	Wednesdays	7am- 12:30pm or 1:30pm-7pm	CLICK HERE
Vaccinated Commuter	Optional	Amenities Center, First Floor, 73 Tremont Street	Wednesdays	7am- 12:30pm or 1:30pm-7pm	CLICK HERE

Results will be delivered to your Suffolk email from CareEvolve@lknotification.com. (Please check your spam email.)

Test results are returned in about 24 hours from the time the test is received at the Broad Institute lab in Cambridge, MA. Test samples are transported to the lab after 8PM each night. You will therefore receive results the evening after the day you tested, regardless of the time of day at which you tested.

Consequences for Not Participating in Mandatory Weekly COVID Testing

- First offense: You are required to meet with the Dean of Students.
- Second and additional offenses: You are required to participate in a conduct hearing for alleged Community Standards/Power of One pledge violations or other violations in the Student Handbook.

Potential consequences for not participating in COVID-19 testing can be quite serious and may include: probation, denial of campus privileges including being banned from campus and the residence halls or dismissal from the University.

STUDENTS DIAGNOSED WITH COVID

Positive test result through Suffolk's testing program

If your positive test was obtained through our on-campus testing program, the medical team at Suffolk will contact you as soon as the results are returned. If you are a residential student, a member of the Residence Life and Housing Services (RLHS) staff will also reach out to you. Please make sure your cell phone voicemail is set up to receive messages.

Positive test result from an off-campus provider

If you are diagnosed with COVID-19 by a non-Suffolk medical provider (doctor, clinic, pharmacy, etc.), you should immediately [email Counseling, Health & Wellness \(CHW\)](#) to report the diagnosis. Please type "COVID Diagnosis" in the subject line. Then, go to the [Student Health Portal](#) to claim a same-day appointment for a COVID visit with a nurse practitioner. The Portal opens at midnight for same day appointments. Please only call CHW if/when there are no appointment slots available.

You should stay out of class, remain at your residence, and await a phone call from a Suffolk CHW nurse practitioner with further instructions. If you are a residential student, a member of the Residence Life and Housing Services (RLHS) staff will also reach out to you. Please make sure your cell phone voicemail is set up to receive messages.

If you would like an absence notification to be sent to your faculty, you should [email Student Affairs](#). This note does not excuse absences and you are expected to speak directly with your faculty about how to make up work, etc. while ill. Student Affairs will confirm your reported COVID diagnosis with CHW prior to sending any emails to faculty.

During the initial conversation, the CHW nurse practitioner will do the following:

- Explain how and why you will need to isolate for 10 days from the positive test or from symptom onset if you have developed symptoms.
- Discuss the diagnosis and answer questions.
- Ask you to identify close contacts (see definition below).
- Discuss quarantine and isolation mandates and the difference between them. You may travel home to quarantine or isolate with family but should be mindful about not interacting with others to minimize their risk of becoming infected with COVID.
- Arrange a new temporary housing assignment during the quarantine or isolation period (if necessary and if you are a resident student) and inform you how to order meals for delivery to your residence hall room through Chartwells. You will be sent an instruction sheet and contact information for staff should you need assistance. Students with COVID may share living quarters with other infected individuals during the isolation period, if the opportunity is available at the time of their diagnosis.
- Set expectations for continued communication during the isolation period.

Contact Tracing

Regardless of where you obtained your positive test result, contact tracing will be performed by Counseling, Health, and Wellness (CHW), in a process consistent with public health guidelines using the CDC definition of a close contact, defined in terms of [Proximity and Duration of Exposure](#):

Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period within 2 days of the individual's positive test or symptom onset if symptoms developed before the positive test date.

Every close contact will be notified as quickly as possible. Close contacts who are vaccinated will be notified in the form of a secure message to your Suffolk email through the student health portal. The date of your exposure and specific medical advice will be delivered to you in this way. Close contacts who are unvaccinated will be notified by phone – please make sure your voicemail is set up to receive messages.

If the infected individual is uncertain about their close contacts, CHW errs on the side of broader notifications, and will send a “potential exposure” letter to larger groups of individuals who *may have* been exposed. CHW encourages infected individuals to notify close contacts themselves as well because infected individuals’ names are not shared by the medical team in the context of these conversations. Faculty and entire classrooms will not be notified by CHW unless it is relevant to do so based on exposure.

If you are not contacted by CHW and informed you are a close contact, the infected individual did not identify you as a close contact.

Quarantine and Isolation

Isolation is the term used to refer to the separation of infected individuals from non-infected individuals. Students diagnosed with COVID may isolate with other students diagnosed with COVID. This may mean that you will be temporarily relocated to another residence hall room. You must use the online order form to order free meals provided by Chartwells which will be delivered to your room.

Quarantine is the term used to refer to the separation of individuals who were exposed to COVID but have not tested positive themselves.

If you are fully vaccinated, you are not required to quarantine following an exposure. [CLICK HERE](#) for guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Fully vaccinated close contacts should still monitor themselves for symptoms of COVID for 14 days following an exposure.

If you have a religious or medical exemption or have not reached fully vaccinated status, you will be required to quarantine. Specific guidance will be provided by the medical team specific to your clinical presentation, vaccination status, and medical needs. You will be directed to immediately quarantine in a room by yourself. You may, if living in a residence hall, need to be temporarily relocated to another residence hall room where you will have your own room and bathroom. You must use the online order form to order free meals provided by Chartwells which will be delivered to your room.

If you develop symptoms, after having been identified as a close contact, you should assume you have contracted COVID and isolate yourself from others right away. You should respond to the secure message you were sent or log onto the [Student Health Portal](#) to make an appointment to discuss your symptoms with a nurse practitioner. Testing and isolation will be advised in accordance with public health guidance.

You may go home to quarantine or isolate with family. However, students with COVID should not travel by public transportation including air or train travel. Students with COVID and their families should use great caution due to the possible spread of COVID to non-infected individuals.

IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL AND YOU THINK IT MAY BE COVID

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, you should log onto the [Student Health Portal](#) to request a same day medical telehealth appointment to discuss your medical issue with a member of CHW’s medical staff.

Do not go to class and, if you are a resident student, please stay in your residence hall room.

The medical team at Suffolk will likely instruct you to obtain a COVID-19 test in this case. Decisions about how, where, and when to test are made by the medical team and instructions will be specific to each student’s clinical presentation and medical needs.

If you are symptomatic, but not identified as a close contact, guidance will be provided based on the likelihood that your symptoms meet the definition of a probable COVID case. If COVID is suspected, you will be instructed to stay home and stay out of class until test results are obtained and a decision is made about whether or not a longer isolation period is necessary.

CLASS ATTENDANCE WHILE ILL WITH COVID

Suffolk University will not share your private health information (COVID diagnosis) with your faculty. You may do so if you choose. If you are absent due to COVID, you must directly contact your faculty at the time of the absence to discuss absences and class assignments. The faculty have been asked to accommodate students who are out sick

due to COVID by providing at their discretion extensions for students to submit assignments or make up tests or quizzes. You should be mindful that some classes that are highly interactive may have restrictions on how much class time you may miss when ill. You are encouraged to discuss your academic or personal needs due to COVID with the Student Affairs Office. To schedule a Zoom appointment, [email Student Affairs](#). If you would like an absence notification to be sent to your faculty, you should [email Student Affairs](#). Student Affairs will confirm your reported COVID diagnosis with CHW prior to sending any emails to faculty. This notification does not excuse absences – only your faculty can excuse absences.

If you have any questions about these protocols, please email covidquestions@suffolk.edu. Please do not use this email address to report personal health details.