



Fall 2024 Respiratory Virus Guidelines

Revised: August 22, 2024

The following Respiratory Virus Guidelines are effective as of August 22, 2024, and are intended to be in place continuously moving forward. As always, the College continues to monitor public health threat trends both on and off campus and will continue to model its planning utilizing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. In the event the guidelines below need to be amended, we will notify the community and post updates on the NEC website at nec.edu/covid.

Move-In Process

There is not a respiratory virus testing requirement as part of the move-in process. All students are encouraged to take the appropriate precautions if they have symptoms of upper respiratory illness on the day they plan to return to campus. This may include wearing a mask, using good handwashing, and avoiding close contact with others as much as is possible. In the event you have significant symptoms of illness and fever over 101.5 F, we ask that you contact admissions for an alternative arrival plan.

Respiratory Virus Testing During the Semester

During the academic year, students will have the following options for testing:

- COVID-19 testing kits are still available for purchase at the local pharmacy and via online retailers like Amazon.com.
- Any student who has respiratory virus symptoms can contact the Wellness Center on campus by email at wellnesscenter@nec.edu or by phone at 603.428.2253. Wellness Center staff will assess and may test for COVID, Influenza, or Strep throat as part of a medical evaluation.

Vaccination Requirements

COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines are not required to attend in-person classes. The college does HIGHLY recommend that all community members stay up to date with COVID-19 and Influenza vaccinations as per current CDC guidelines.

Students who are in an academic program or course that involves a clinical rotation, student teaching/methods, or an internship are still expected to comply with any testing or vaccination requirements set forth by their work site. New England College requirements would not supersede any expectations your off-campus employer would have.

Isolation for Students Who Test Positive for a Respiratory Virus

New CDC guidelines treat COVID-19 infection similarly to Influenza or other upper respiratory infections.

- Students are no longer required to isolate for five days. Instead, students who test positive for a respiratory virus are encouraged to stay out of class and group settings as much as possible until their symptoms begin improving and they do not have a fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications.



- All students are permitted to stay in their own room while they are having the worst symptoms and/or fever and are recommended to wear a well-fitting mask in all campus buildings if they need to leave their room during this time.
- Students who are feeling improved and fever-free for 24 hours who are returning to class and campus activities are recommended to wear a mask through the fifth day after their symptoms began.
- Students are not required to re-test for return to campus activities after testing positive for a respiratory virus.
- The College will maintain access to isolation housing for students in non-single rooms who live further than four hours away who need to isolate outside of their regular campus housing due to extenuating illness or circumstances. These decisions will be made jointly by the involved parties, the Wellness Center, and the Dean of Students. Commuter students who need to isolate for any reason will be expected to complete their isolation off campus.

Exposure to a Sick Person

Physical quarantine and mask use for asymptomatic persons who are a close contact to a COVID-19 or Influenza-positive person is not required at this time.

Mask Usage

While there is no general requirement for all persons to wear masks in College buildings, mask wearing is recommended under the following circumstances:

- Masks should be worn in the office of any staff or faculty member who asks persons to wear masks in their office.
- Masks should be worn in classrooms if the faculty/instructor asks that they be worn during class sessions.
- Students who tested positive for COVID-19 or Influenza are recommended to wear a well-fitting mask in all campus buildings through their fifth day after the initial test.
- Students with symptoms of respiratory illness that are not improving or who also have fever over 101.5 F should wear a mask when they cannot avoid being close to other people.

The College recognizes that some persons may choose to wear masks as a precaution, and we support this individual choice. Community members are asked to respect this choice.

Temporary Remote Status

Remote status in classes and the terms for addressing missed work due to illness will be determined by the faculty member, the student, and the student's advisor as needed.