

Fall 2022 COVID-19 Guidelines

Revised: August 15, 2022

The following Fall 2022 COVID-19 Guidelines are effective as of August 15, 2022 and are intended to be in place throughout the Fall semester. As always, the College continues to monitor 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: <https://www.nec.edu/covid/>.

Fall Semester Move-in Process

There will be no testing requirement as part of the Fall 2022 move-in process. All students are encouraged to take an at-home antigen test the morning they plan to return to the college just to check their status before returning to our community. If your test result is positive, please contact the COVID Response team at COVIDresponseteam@nec.edu immediately.

Students without complete vaccine and booster records will have a Health Hold put onto their account and are expected to complete those requirements prior to fall move-in.

Testing During the Semester

During the academic year, students will have multiple options for testing.

First, all students will be given a take-home test kit at the start of term which they can use any time. These tests will be put into students' campus mailboxes. Commuter students in Manchester can pick up an at-home test from the package/mail center in Concord Hall during the first week of class.

Second, students are encouraged to order free tests from the Center for Disease Control available here: <https://www.covid.gov/tests/>. Please consider ordering these tests prior to your arrival on campus and bring them with you.

Third, testing kits are widely available for purchase at the campus bookstore, the local pharmacy, and via online retailers like Amazon.com.

Fourth, any student who has COVID symptoms or who has potentially been exposed to the virus should 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 as part of their medical evaluation.

Vaccination Requirements

The College requires all students attending classes face-to-face in Henniker or Manchester to be fully vaccinated and, after the CDC-determined waiting period, boosted.

Isolation for students who test positive for COVID-19

Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 must enter isolation for at least five days. Guidelines for isolation are as follows:

- Students who have a positive COVID-19 test result must isolate for a minimum of 5 days from the date of their initial positive test. On the 6th day following the initial positive test, students will take an antigen test and, if that test is negative, physical isolation can end. Students who test positive on the 6th day must continue to remain in physical isolation until they test negative on a future antigen test.
- A student who does not test negative on an antigen test by their 10th day in isolation can leave isolation on the 10th day as long as they are no longer symptomatic.
- Students who are permitted to leave isolation before their 10th day are required to wear a well-fitting mask in all campus buildings through their 10th day after the initial test.
- Residential students whose home address is within 4 hours from campus will be expected to complete their isolation at home. Residential students whose home address is 4 or more hours from campus will be offered on-campus isolation housing, which will include meal service. Commuter students will be expected to complete their isolation off campus.

Exposure to a COVID-19-positive person

Per the August revised guidelines from the CDC, physical quarantine for persons who are close contact to a COVID-positive person is not required at this time.

Any student who has not completed their vaccine and booster requirement (including vaccine-exempt students) are required to wear a high-quality mask for 5 days from the date of close-contact exposure and to self-monitor for symptoms. After that five-day period, those students are required to take an antigen test and, if the test results are negative, mask-wearing can be ended.

Students who are fully vaccinated and boosted and who are a close contact are recommended to wear a mask and to self-monitor for any symptoms.

Mask Usage

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

- Masks must be worn in the office of any staff or faculty member who asks persons to wear masks in their office
- Masks must be worn in classrooms if the faculty/instructor asks that they be worn during class sessions
- Students who are not fully vaccinated and boosted are required to wear a mask for at least 5 days after being a close contact of a COVID-positive person



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 and encouraged not to assume that a person wearing a mask is COVID-positive or unvaccinated.

Exemptions from the vaccine/booster requirement

Exemptions may be granted for religious or medical reasons at the discretion of the Covid Response Team at New England College. The student exemption form is available at <https://www.nec.edu/covid/>. Please follow the directions on the form and submit it to COVIDResponseTeam@nec.edu.

Temporary Remote Status

Remote status in classes will only be granted temporarily to undergraduate in-person students who are required to isolate due to a COVID-19 infection. The terms for addressing missed work while remote will be determined by the faculty member, the student, and the student's advisor as needed.