



## SUNY Potsdam COVID-19 BEAR Pledge

### **B**e **E**thical **A**nd **R**esponsible

(Expectations for Campus Interactions for Academic Year 2021-2022)

Opening up SUNY Potsdam during a global pandemic requires that all community members do their part to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Having an open and engaged community inherently puts students, faculty, and staff at greater risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus. Therefore, we each must be aware of our own actions and how our interactions can enhance the health and safety of others in our community. It is critical that we avoid making assumptions about individuals in the SUNY Potsdam community who may be at increased health risk if they contract COVID-19. These individuals, which includes students, faculty, and staff, will be in classrooms, in residence halls, and all other areas of the community.

Our Potsdam Pledge motivates us to do all that we can to create an environment where everyone is safely able to participate in the wide range of instructional and co-curricular activities available on our campus. To this end, all students are expected to comply with the following terms and conditions for Academic Year 2021-2022 to protect themselves and the SUNY Potsdam Community.

#### **General**

- Be considerate of others, especially those at high risk of contracting COVID-19.
- Do your part to limit the spread of COVID-19.
- Follow classroom expectations as outlined in your course syllabi.
- Comply with return to campus requirements, including reporting vaccination status and participating in campus COVID-19 testing.
- Comply with any additional limitations, restrictions, or policies imposed by SUNY Potsdam or individual offices (e.g. Residence Life, PACES, Campus Life) for the health and safety of our community and any guidelines from NYS Governor's Office, the SUNY System and the St. Lawrence County Office of Public Health.
- Student clubs/organizations must adhere to all of the expectations outlined in the COVID-19 Event-Facilities Guidelines.

#### **COVID-19 Vaccinations**

- New York State and SUNY have mandated all students accessing SUNY facilities in-person must receive a COVID-19 vaccination for the Fall 2021 term, with limited exception.
- Students participating in applied learning experiences (internships, student teaching, field experiences, etc.) must follow the vaccination policy of their assigned site.
- Initially, indoor dining at campus facilities will be limited to vaccinated students<sup>1</sup> only. Partially vaccinated and unvaccinated students will need to utilize Grab-N-Go options to start the semester. This requirement will be reassessed regularly and any changes to the expectations communicated to students through email.
- Vaccinated students<sup>1</sup> wishing to participate in activities or programs designated for vaccinated students only will need to present to the organizers on site at the time of the event both their Potsdam student ID card and

confirmation of vaccination status through the SUNY Student Vaccination Pass (VaxApp), NYS Excelsior Pass app, NYC COVID SAFE app or their original paper immunization card. Student attendance will also be tracked through use of Event Passes through Get Involved.

### **COVID-19 Testing**

- In addition to being tested on arrival, all students will also participate in campus COVID-19 testing during the first week of classes (September 6), following October break (October 18), and following November break (November 29). Students at the Watertown extension campus may have a different schedule and will be notified by email.
- Any student with a temporary/full exemption from the vaccine requirement will need to be COVID-19 tested weekly beginning September 6, 2021.
- Vaccinated<sup>1</sup> students, including those at the Watertown extension campus, may be COVID-19 tested at other times throughout the semester at times that the campus deems COVID-19 testing is warranted.

### **Face coverings, Social Distancing and Residence Hall Guests**

- All students (Vaccinated, Partially Vaccinated, and Unvaccinated<sup>1</sup>) will be required to wear face coverings that cover both the nose and mouth while indoors. This requirement will be reassessed regularly and any changes to the expectations communicated to students through email.
  - Exceptions to the face covering requirement include when students are:
    - (1) in their private residential or personal space when no one else is present, or
    - (2) eating meals on-campus while seated, and social distancing is appropriately enforced.
- If the face covering mandate is rescinded:
  - fully vaccinated<sup>1</sup> students will not be required to wear a face covering but are encouraged to wear a face covering or practice social distancing particularly in environments where 100% of the population is not fully vaccinated.
  - Unvaccinated and partially vaccinated students must wear a face covering and maintain a social distance of six (6) feet at all times indoors and outdoors as described above.
- Students living in the residence halls may have other residential students as guests in accordance with residence life policy. No persons (students, family, friends) who are not residential students are allowed in the residence halls.
- Students participating in applied learning experiences (internships, student teaching, field experiences, etc.) must follow the face covering and social distancing policy of their assigned site.
- Students at the Watertown extension campus must follow the Jefferson Community College guidelines for face covering and social distancing.

### **Quarantine and Contact Tracing**

- Complete quarantine or isolation periods when required.
  - Students who test positive for COVID-19, who are in a positive testing pool, or who are deemed a close contact of someone who tested positive will need to follow quarantine and isolation guidance provided by Student Health Services, Office of Residence Life, St. Lawrence County Public Health or other agency/office.
- Participate fully and honestly in the contact tracing process with either Student Health Services or St. Lawrence County Public Health.

## Health Screening

- Students should self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms.
- Anyone with symptoms should self-quarantine immediately. Students in Potsdam should call Student Health Services at 315-267-2376 to be screened by the SHS triage team during the hours of 8:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Students at the Watertown campus should contact their primary care provider.
- Students who receive a positive COVID-19 test result should report this to Student Health Services immediately.

## Students with only on-line coursework

- Students who are fully on-line for coursework cannot physically be on campus at any time for any reason, unless they have provided proof of full vaccination or have an approved medical or religious vaccination exemption on file.

Participation in certain activities (specific classes, labs, ensembles, practicums, internships, athletic teams, club sports, student activities, etc.) may have additional expectations. Students should check with the instructor or organizer about these expectations. (Examples of these requirements include, but are not limited to, participation of only vaccinated students, no eating or drinking in class, wearing a face covering if social distancing can't be maintained, increased frequency of testing requirements. etc.)

These expectations are based on guidelines and regulations from NYS Governor's Office, the SUNY System and the St. Lawrence County Office of Public Health. Following these guidelines and regulations should reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus and lessen the possibility that the SUNY Potsdam community will be negatively impacted.

All students are expected to do their part to keep the SUNY Potsdam community healthy. Violations of these expectations, the Potsdam Student Code of Conduct, other campus policies, or orders put in place by local or NYS Government entities related to COVID-19, may be referred to the Student Conduct System. The student conduct process strives to be educational. The Student Conduct System will work with students to define acceptable behaviors and improve compliance with the COVID-19 expectations. Severe or repeated offenses may result in removal from housing/restriction from campus.

<sup>1</sup> Fully Vaccinated: People are considered fully vaccinated: (1) two weeks after receiving the second dose in a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or (2) two weeks after receiving a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine.