



SPRING 2021 RETURN PLAN

FOR TESTING, INSTRUCTION, ACADEMIC CALENDAR, ACTIVITIES,
REPORTING AND TRANSPARENCY



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SUNY MORRISVILLE

CAMPUS DEMOGRAPHICS

SUNY Morrisville has a student population of approximately 2,500. About 1,000 of those students live in residential housing on campus. Approximately 500 of the total number of students are enrolled in online classes only. About 150 of the 240 students enrolled on the Norwich Campus are expected to participate in at least one on-campus course for the Spring 2021 term.

The college and its auxiliary corporation employ approximately 600 individuals. About 35 employees work at the Norwich Campus. A significant portion of the employee population is working remotely for either a portion or the entirety of its work hours, minimizing the on-campus presence as much as possible. In Fall 2020, the college weekly averaged approximately half of the employee workforce (~300) being physically present on campus.

1. TESTING AND MONITORING

A. PRE-SCREENING

All students, faculty and staff will be screened daily for travel history, COVID-19 history and COVID-19 symptoms for two (2) weeks prior to return. This will be accomplished through the use of an online form. An automated reminder email will be sent to all college email accounts daily.

Students who:

- live on campus
- participate in at least one class on campus
- utilize services on campus (dining, library, recreation facilities. Etc.)
- work on campus

will **submit an attestation of having completed a seven-day (7-day) precautionary quarantine** prior to returning to campus. This will be completed through an online form, most likely in the form of a Blackboard course.

Additionally, each student as described above will:

- provide evidence of a **negative COVID-19 test taken AS CLOSE TO ARRIVAL AS POSSIBLE, within seven (7) days** and no more than 14 days prior to return to campus, **AND**
- **participate in testing (most likely pooled saliva testing) upon arrival**, and no later than five (5) days after returning to campus

OR

- provide documentation of a **positive diagnostic COVID-19 test from the prior three-month (3-month) period**

Students also will inform the campus of any **known contacts** with COVID-19 positive individuals, or of **any symptoms** consistent with COVID-19 or of a **positive test result** for COVID-19.

All students will be enrolled in a Blackboard course to ensure they submit all necessary documentation, receive all relevant information and training, and are sorted by residential and commuter student status to understand which policies and practices apply.

Commuter students are expected to participate in testing requirements, just as residential students are required. They must participate in pooled saliva testing as soon as possible within their first week of being physically on campus. If more than 14 days go by since their last test and most recent visit to campus, they must participate in pooled saliva testing again.

Norwich Campus students, who are not residential and do not generally live in communal housing, will be expected to **either** provide proof of a negative test before coming to campus **or** participate in scheduled pooled saliva testing at the Norwich Campus.

B. SURVEILLANCE TESTING

SUNY Morrisville relies on two methods of surveillance testing: wastewater testing and pooled saliva testing. Wastewater testing covers the entire campus, providing a weekly measurement. Pooled saliva testing allows measurement of the entire campus every two to four weeks.

Surveillance testing applies to all **students – residential and commuting – faculty and staff who are on campus at least weekly**, and is open to all who choose to participate. **Those who are learning or working remotely exclusively are welcome, but not required, to participate.** There is no charge to any individual to participate in campus testing.

Staff involved in pooled saliva sample collection receive the training provided by video and documents developed by SUNY Upstate and Quadrant Biosciences. Materials are provided on the college's website, sent by email ahead of the scheduled collection efforts, and also provided or reviewed at the testing site.

All necessary PPE is inventoried, distributed and replenished through the Facilities department.

Instruction on proper dressing and removal is provided by experienced clinicians and testing volunteers.

Wastewater testing is conducted by the college's dedicated wastewater plant staff, who deliver samples to the county health department and the lab at SUNY Upstate and Quadrant Biosciences. Results are reported by the lab back to the county, then to the facilities administrators and shared with the college's core COVID-19 task force.

In cases of possible exposure to COVID-19 on campus, SUNY Morrisville will follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance outlined in [Testing, Screening, and Outbreak Response for Institutions of Higher Education \(IHEs\)](#).

V WASTEWATER TESTING

SUNY Morrisville implemented wastewater testing in mid-July 2020 and will **collect samples once a week** from the central wastewater influent. Results are typically received within three to five (3-5) days.

The college has its own wastewater plant and operators. The only non-SUNY Morrisville input into the plant is from Crouse Community Center, a rehabilitation nursing home adjacent to the campus.

Additionally, the college samples all nine occupied residence halls once each week. Combined with the central plant testing, this allows a comparison and targeting approach in the event the samples from the central plant collection show elevated levels of the virus.

If elevated levels are detected, the college will deploy a broader pooled saliva testing initiative. This is typically done five to seven days after the initial sampling, since wastewater testing can detect the virus earlier than pooled saliva testing detects it. If the levels are in residence halls, those residence halls are the focus of the pooled testing and all residents in the hall will be expected to participate. If the levels are not in the residence halls, the college will move a mobile pump unit to check the wastewater at

Crouse. If the levels appear to be coming from other on-campus sources, campuswide pooled saliva testing will take place as soon as possible.

√ POOLED SALIVA TESTING

Weekly pooled saliva testing is scheduled every Tuesday. All faculty, staff and students are expected to participate in weekly pooled saliva testing. This applies to residential and commuter students. Those who are learning or working remotely exclusively are welcome, but not required, to participate. Testing is conducted in the Recreation Center. Hours will be announced.

√ INDIVIDUAL TESTING

Individual testing will be reserved for symptomatic or other for-cause situations. If a pooled saliva test is positive, that pool will immediately undergo reflex testing, or testing of the individual samples making up the pool by SUNY Upstate and Quadrant Biosciences.

The Student Health Center currently has two point of care, rapid antigen analyzers. Symptomatic students will be evaluated by Health Services staff and will undergo point of care testing if appropriate. A positive rapid antigen result is diagnostic of COVID-19. The student will be immediately placed into isolation, the local health department will be notified, and contact tracing will begin. If the rapid antigen test is negative, a nasopharyngeal PCR specimen will be collected and sent to a reference laboratory, Laboratory Alliance. Results are typically available in three to five (3-5) days. The student will remain in precautionary quarantine pending the test results.

Employees who receive off-campus tests must notify Human Resources of any positive results in a timely fashion. The college will work closely with local public health officials as they conduct contact tracing and notify close contacts.

C. ADDITIONAL TESTING AND ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS

Students, faculty and staff who have traveled to/from [restricted states/regions](#) or to/from international locations as defined by New York State must follow the [New York State Travel Advisory](#) - whether living on- or off-campus—and attest that they have submitted the [New York Traveler Health form](#) and will follow the guidance of the governing local health department related to mandatory testing, quarantine/isolation, and timing of returning to campus.

Any student, faculty or staff testing positive for COVID-19 must isolate and follow the [New York State Department of Health Order on isolation](#) and the guidance of the governing local health department on length of said isolation and timing of return to campus. These guidelines might differ from those of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The college has designated **South Hall as its quarantine and isolation location**, with accommodations for **up to 117** (about 10 percent of the total on-campus residential population). Additionally, suites within Commons I and Commons II residence halls can temporarily be designated as quarantine locations when regular residents of those suites have been directed to quarantine, as they have their own bathroom and kitchen facilities within each suite. The suites are designed to accommodate up to five beds each, and each of the halls has an occupancy of approximately 200.

Employees who test positive will be contacted by Human Resources. Employees who receive off-campus tests must notify Human Resources of any positive results in a timely fashion. The college will work closely with local public health officials as they conduct contact tracing and notify close contacts.

Employees who test positive must complete an isolation period (typically 10 days) before returning to campus. Employees identified as close contacts must complete a quarantine period before returning to campus. Employees must work with HR and their supervisors to inform them of their time away from campus and to determine if remote work, sick leave or other leave arrangements are appropriate.

2. MODE OF INSTRUCTION

SPRING 2021 TERM

Residential move-in for most students will be conducted **between Friday and Sunday (Feb. 5-7) the week before the semester starts**. Students will be assigned specific move-in times to improve physical distancing. Students will participate in a health check and provide samples for pooled saliva testing upon arrival before going to their residence.

The official start date for Spring 2021 classes is planned for Monday, Feb. 8 (pending SUNY system approval). All classes will begin in the format they are scheduled, whether remote, hybrid or in-person. Exceptions have been requested for a limited number of courses in the area of clinical practicums and applied learning experiences requiring a physical presence in specialized facilities and requiring specialized equipment.

All instructional spaces have been audited for revised capacity, **not to exceed 50%** of standard limits. Student work space are placed **at least six feet apart**. A coordination of effort between Facilities Services and the Office of the Registrar has ensured that that courses are assigned to appropriate instructional spaces capable of accommodating physically-distanced student numbers.

If the campus meets the threshold for a mandatory pause on in-person instruction as outlined in the [Supplemental Higher Education guidance from the New York State Department of Health](#), faculty and staff are prepared to continue educational and support services for students as they remain in place until the pause is over. **This means students remain in their residences (or away from campus), except to pick up takeout-only food or to exercise outdoors in an appropriately distanced manner. Remote operations are now designed into all possible functions of the college, and faculty have planned for courses to adjust to online or remote delivery as necessary.**

C. REMOTE INSTRUCTION

The Teaching & Learning Center provide faculty and staff training, certification, and professional development to meet the terms of regular and substantive interaction.

The Library provides an array of services to support remote student and faculty teaching and learning including a robust collection of online information resources, open education resources support for faculty, remote information literacy support in the form of reference services available 24/7 and both synchronous and asynchronous course information literacy instruction sessions.

The Teaching & Learning Center works with the Accessibility Office to ensure faculty and student needs and access to information and technology are available to be successful.

The Library vets information resources and online service modules to ensure accessibility requirements are met.

SUNY Morrisville Teaching & Learning Center provides:

- Faculty required training per semester is a facilitated session by the instructor designer that shares good practices of LMS shell design (Oscar Rubric), local and SUNY System resources, and stresses strategies that are acceptable and not acceptable for course delivery (Includes all faculty).
- Faculty certification will be required moving forward for instructors prior to teaching a fully-online or hybrid course. The certification process consists a self-paced course to complete followed by a test for the instructors to take to earn a certificate (includes faculty teaching online and hybrid). Required accessibility training due to ADA law plus SUNY mandates. Faculty and staff will be trained on audio, captioning, note taking & dictation at minimum to meet these standards.
- Professional development is ongoing discussions and training on specific technology platforms, teaching strategies, accessibility services, and other instructional or student support strategies. The Teaching & Learning Center works with the College Senate Professional Development Committee on Winter and Spring Professional Development Conferences to address faculty and staff support (Includes all faculty and staff interested).

SUNY Morrisville Campuswide Advising and faculty advisors work with other student support areas (tutoring services, accessibility services, financial aid office, career services, etc.) at the college to provide students with guidance for academic planning and assistance. The professional advisors work with faculty using the Starfish platform to proactively alert students of additional support systems or academic success.

The Teaching & Learning Center provide faculty and staff with access to the Faculty and Staff Resource Center in Blackboard to get access to recorded trainings, resources, and support for remote learning, as well as Blackboard FAQ, support and trainings to strengthen remote learning understanding and skills.

The SUNY Morrisville Distanced Education Webpage

<https://www.morrisville.edu/contact/offices/provost-office/distance-education> for additional student and faculty/staff support and information.

Weekly email communications to all faculty and staff from the college's instructional designer inform of ongoing local and SUNY System resources, support, and trainings.

3. ACADEMIC CALENDAR

A. SPRING TERM START DATES

As noted above, **the official start date for Spring 2021 classes is planned for Monday, Feb. 8 (pending SUNY system approval)**. All classes will begin in the format they are scheduled, whether remote, hybrid or in-person.

Exceptions have been requested for a limited number of courses in the area of clinical practicums and applied learning experiences requiring a physical presence in specialized facilities and requiring specialized equipment.

Residential move-in for most students will be conducted **between Wednesday and Saturday, the week before classes begin**. Students will participate in a health check and provide samples for pooled saliva testing upon arrival before going to their residence.

Other important dates for the Spring 2021 term are detailed in the following table:

Event	Date	Day(s) of the Week
Classes Begin (15-week inclusive)	Feb. 8	Monday through Friday
Face-to-face in-person instruction begins	Feb. 8	Monday
Student access to Add/Drop period ends	Feb. 22	Monday
Interim grades due	March 19	Friday
Last day to Drop	April 16	Friday
Classes end	May 14	Friday
Finals Week	May 17-21	Monday through Friday
Grades due	May 25	Tuesday

B. SPRING BREAK

Given the current risks associated with COVID-19 spread, **there is no scheduled spring break and any other spring holiday period.**

C. COMMENCEMENT

SUNY Morrisville is tentatively planning for a [virtual Commencement event, similar to May 2020](#). The date is tentatively planned for **Saturday, May 22**. Details will be provided as more information is available.

4. ON-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

A. STATE AND LOCAL GUIDANCE

All in-person activities will continue to follow the mandatory [NYS Department of Health guidance for physical \(“social”\) distancing and mask wearing](#).

Students, staff and faculty involved in athletics will follow guidance from the State of New York and its authorities, as well as those developed and provided by the NCAA and applicable athletics conferences.

B. COMPLIANCE

The Chancellor [directive on compliance](#), implementing uniform sanctions System-wide for COVID-19 related violations, remains in effect for the Winter and Spring 2021 terms.

C. MENTAL HEALTH

SUNY Morrisville will continue to both provide and promote [on-campus mental health services](#) and trainings, as well as resources provided by SUNY and the State of New York. Services include, but are not limited to, individual counseling, peer support, crisis services and suicide prevention.

5. REPORTING

A. DAILY DASHBOARD

SUNY Morrisville provides transparency and public safety by sharing statistics on the COVID-19 case count for the campus. SUNY System provides a live, up-to-date dashboard that displays data on COVID-19 testing and other vital information at each of SUNY's 64 colleges and universities. The data is reported by individual campuses every 24 hours. To view Morrisville's statistics, visit the [SUNY COVID-19 Case Tracker](#) and select "Morrisville" from the campus dropdown menu.

The college will also distribute a “What Students Need to Know” document via Morrisville email, as well as posting it on the college website, before the official start date of the spring semester.

The current designated Campus Safety Monitor is Graham Garner, Chief Officer for Communications, Marketing & External Relations, who can be reached by email at garnerg@morrisville.edu or 315.684.6041.

B. INSTRUCTIONAL MODALITIES

SUNY Morrisville will continue to comply with requests from SUNY System Administration to provide periodic statistical summaries of the distribution of instructional modalities between face-to-face, hybrid and remote methods as adjustments are made during the conduct of the academic semester.