

What Students Should Know: COVID-19 and Returning to Campus

As we return to campus in fall 2021, Westchester Community College's first priority is the health and safety of our campus community, including its students, faculty, and staff. The best way to maintain the safest environment possible throughout 2021 and beyond is for each of us to take steps to minimize the risks, not only for ourselves, but for all members of the SUNY community. This includes:

- getting vaccinated
- wearing face coverings (masks)
- hand washing
- social distancing
- participating in testing and tracing
- being mindful of our surroundings and the impact we have

Any of us alone can spread this disease and cause harm to others. But all of us together can build a community that is safe and healthy, where educational success is possible. Here's what you need to know and do as SUNY and Westchester Community College welcome students back to campus for fall 2021:

Stay Informed

Westchester Community College will continue to update its [website](#) with the latest information concerning COVID-19 developments and the continuation of Winter and Spring classes. Information will also be communicated through emails from the college as well as the Viking Weekly newsletter that is distributed on Mondays.

Return to Campus Safely

All students who will be attending a class on campus or at any extension during the Fall 2021 semester MUST report their proof of completed COVID vaccination or request an exemption by going to the [Westchester Community College's CastleBranch portal](#). For details and additional information for coming on campus or any extension center, visit [COVID Info - Westchester Community College \(sunywcc.edu\)](#)

Get Tested

Students who are not vaccinated against COVID-19 and are scheduled to be on campus or at any extension center during the Fall 2021 semester must receive a PCR test on a weekly basis at the Westchester Medical Center's Valhalla Campus. Students who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are not required to test weekly.

Check the COVID-19 Dashboard

SUNY maintains a comprehensive dashboard of COVID-19 testing and infection rate status across the system and at each campus. <https://www.suny.edu/covid19-tracker/>.

Be Responsible – It's Easy to Do Your Part

Each of us can take small steps to protect ourselves and the campus community. Because COVID-19, especially the new Delta variant, is highly contagious, these simple measures apply both on and off-campus:

- **Wear face coverings (masks)** at all times on campus when indoors, including in classrooms, conference rooms and other public spaces, even when you are able to maintain six feet of social distancing.
- **Regularly wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and use hand sanitizer where soap and water are not available.
- **Stay home when you are sick** or have potentially been exposed to COVID-19.
- **Practice social distancing** whenever practicable to reduce transmission.

If Exposed, Complete Mandatory Quarantine and Isolation

Students who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for a 10-day period. Students who have been identified as a contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19 must quarantine for a 10-day period. If they are asymptomatic, individuals placed on isolation or quarantine may return to in-person classes or work on campus or off-campus sites on day #11.

Students or employees who participate in internships or clinical rotations in nursing homes and other long-term facilities must follow a 14-day quarantine as required by the CDC and the NYSDOH for return to these sites.

Please note the following if you are vaccinated:

Vaccinated persons with an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they meet all 3 of the following criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated (i.e., more than 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or more than 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)
- Vaccinated status has been confirmed by a Westchester Community College Health Office Nurse or by the WCDOH
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure

Follow the Rules or Face Disciplinary Action

When the campus learns of a violation of the rules associated with COVID-19 safety, students may lose access to campus facilities and/or campus housing. Other disciplinary actions may be taken by the Student Conduct and/or Human Resources Offices. Student conduct is governed by the campus [Code of Conduct](#). Minimum sanctions are outlined in the [Uniform Sanctioning in Response to COVID-19 Student Violations](#). Consistent with SUNY policy, students who are partially or completely removed from the institution due to a violation are not eligible for refunds.

Take Care of Yourself – Physically and Mentally

We understand that this is an exceptionally challenging time. SUNY has resources to help you get the support you need.

WCC Department of Mental Health and Counseling Services : [Department of Mental Health and Counseling Services - Westchester Community College \(sunywcc.edu\)](https://www.sunywcc.edu/department-of-mental-health-and-counseling-services)

ReachOut SUNY: <https://online.suny.edu/covid19/students/local-state-and-national-resources/>

Thriving Campus: <https://www.thrivingcampus.com/>

Middle Earth from the University at Albany:
<https://www.albany.edu/counselingcenter/middleearth.php>

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New York State Office of Mental Health Crisis Text Line: Text **GOT5** to **741741**.

Understand What's Being Offered On-Campus and Online

During the Fall 2021 semester, most WCC courses will be taught virtually with fewer courses to be taught in-person, on-campus and at extension locations. Regardless of the instructional modality of a course, all courses are taught following the specific learning outcomes and high academic standards that are customary for a WCC education. For details on Spring 2021 courses, visit [Spring Session 2021 - Westchester Community College \(sunywcc.edu\)](https://www.sunywcc.edu/spring-session-2021)

Get Instructional and Technology Help

For online learning resources, student services and an FAQ addressing other student concerns, visit [here](#)

Request Accommodations for Disabilities

Students who wish to disclose covered disabilities and receive reasonable accommodations for their disabilities should contact the [Disability Services Office](#)

If We Have to PAUSE, Follow These Rules

If the campus must switch to a two-week (or longer) pause, the following rules apply. All remote classes will continue as scheduled. Hybrid classes scheduled to meet on campus will NOT meet in person; rather, where possible instruction will be provided remotely. Students will be advised as to alternative arrangements.

Changes and Updates: The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic creates a fluid situation that may require unexpected changes in our response. Updates to scientific knowledge, public health guidance, or laws and regulations may mean SUNY and Westchester Community College have to make changes to our standards and rules, including those indicated above. SUNY and Westchester Community College will try to minimize these changes and their impact. We will keep you informed of new developments.

Thank you in advance for everything you are doing and will do to make 2021 safe for you, your fellow students, and the campus community and beyond.

