Fall 2021 – Public Health Guidance for Main Campus at Syracuse

On 8/23/2021, the FDA approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

This guidance is effective as of 8/23/2021 and is subject to revision at any time. More specific guidance may be provided by departments or offices within ESF.

Changes to these guidelines will be relayed to the ESF campus community by email to the address on file and on the ESF COVID restart page.

ESF provides these guidelines in an effort to create a healthy space for the campus community. Conditions are changing, and we are trying to keep pace with the new knowledge and practices for reducing the transmission rate of the COVID virus and its variants. As we approach the start of the fall semester, we are closely monitoring the pandemic situation daily to enhance health and safety on campus for everyone. The CDC has elevated Onondaga County’s COVID-19 transmission rate to “HIGH.” If we can reduce the spread, we can return to our social gatherings.

General Requirements – ESF Campus at Syracuse

Masks

ESF has adopted the Campus Mask Status implemented by Syracuse University. This framework uses four levels to alert the community about masking requirements for using the campus facilities and applies to all students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors on the ESF Campus at Syracuse. ESF reserves the right to set its levels different from those on the Syracuse University campus based on conditions on the ESF campus.

Vaccination

- Students
  All students engaging in in-person activities sponsored by ESF must be vaccinated, consistent with the New York State directive for SUNY Campuses and the SUNY COVID-19 Vaccination Policy.

  Enforcement of that mandate will become effective on 9/27/2021. This is 35 days after final FDA approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

  This mandate will be strictly enforced.

  On or before 9/27/2021, students must show proof that they have completed a full vaccine series (meaning that the student has received at least one dose of a single dose vaccine series or at least a second dose of a two-dose series), provided, however that this 35-day period does not include the two-week window after completion of the series needed for immunity.
All students must provide proof of vaccination to participate in in-person activities on campus, including classes, labs, and other activities.

Students who are not vaccinated and who have not provided proof of vaccination shall be excluded from participating in ESF activities. Withdrawal and refunds will be consistent with SUNY and ESF policies, procedures, and schedules. Such students will be administratively withdrawn from their in-person courses and their registration will be deactivated.

Students are to verify vaccination status at https://esf.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3jvM8BT2eakTDaS

Presentation of forged documents or not being truthful with vaccination status will result in legal action and/or student conduct action being taken against the relevant individuals.

- Faculty & Staff
  All faculty and staff members must sign the SUNY Understanding, acknowledging the Revised Guidance for State Agencies and Authorities during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

  Faculty and staff are to submit proof of vaccination to Human Resources at https://esf.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e9zNhZK0DLer0z4

  Presentation of forged documents or not being truthful with vaccination status will result in legal action being taken against the relevant individuals.

Requirements for Specific Gathering Types

**Classes & Labs**

All students must be vaccinated, consistent with the New York State directive for SUNY Campuses the SUNY COVID-19 Vaccination Policy.

On and after 9/27/2021, when the vaccine mandate will be enforced:
- Students who are not vaccinated and who have not provided proof of vaccination shall be excluded from participating in classes, labs, and ESF activities. Withdrawal and refunds will be consistent with SUNY and ESF policies, procedures, and schedules.

Prior to 9/27/2021, when the vaccine mandate will be enforced:
- All students, regardless of vaccination status, will be permitted to attend classes and labs held in facilities on the ESF campus and will be expected to adhere to all ESF expectations and guidelines related to masking.
- Unvaccinated students will not be permitted to attend Syracuse University classes held on the Syracuse University campus as vaccination is required by Syracuse University for all students.

At any time:
- Faculty may require masking within their classroom and lab spaces as part of their course requirements. This requirement may be independent of the Campus Mask Status in effect.
- Faculty may be permitted to remove the mask for lecture purposes as long as social distancing can be maintained, except for when the Campus Mask Status is set at Red.
• Faculty are not required to record lectures or to provide real-time participation methods to lectures or labs for students who are excluded from participating because of vaccination status. Students may work with faculty to obtain missed work or course materials if they are not able to make the class because of health status. *(Note: this is not intended to reduce the obligation to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities.)*

• Any faculty or staff member may require masking within their workspaces where interaction with the campus community may occur. This requirement may be independent of the [Campus Mask Status](#) in effect.

• Transportation for field classes and other activities will require passengers to be masked, regardless of vaccination status, and for windows to be kept open during transit.

**Residence Hall (Centennial Hall)**
All residents must be vaccinated. This requirement shall be enforced on and after 8/18/2021. You will not be allowed to move into the residence hall without proof of vaccination.

Before check-in, residents must provide proof of vaccination.

However, a student who is partially-vaccinated, having the first dose of vaccine without reaching full vaccination status, may be allowed to move in, provided that such student also show (1) proof of a negative COVID-19 test (PCR) taken within 5 days of arrival on campus and (2) proof of receiving the first dose.

[Appointments](#) for vaccines are widely available within the community.

Residents who are not vaccinated or who have not provided proof of vaccination will be excluded from living in the residence hall. Withdrawal and refunds will be consistent with the housing contract and with SUNY and ESF policies and procedures.

All residents shall wear masks in public spaces of the residence hall, regardless of either vaccination status or the [Campus Mask Status](#).

Visitors must be masked.

**Extra-Curricular Activities**
All students engaging in extra-curricular activities must be vaccinated, consistent with the New York State directive for SUNY Campuses the SUNY COVID-19 Vaccination Policy.

Enforcement of will become effective on and after 8/23/2021.

Extra-curricular activities are any activities on any ESF campus or controlled property and/or sponsored by any group or organization affiliated with ESF such as recognized student clubs and organizations. All students are encouraged to wear masks in group activities, regardless of vaccination status.

Students using [Syracuse University’s](#) facilities or accessing its campus are required to be vaccinated. The [Campus Mask Status](#) framework implemented by Syracuse University must be followed. Students should be aware of the status level.
However, a student who is partially-vaccinated, having the first dose of vaccine without reaching full vaccination status, may be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities, provided that such student also show (1) proof of a negative COVID-19 test (PCR) conducted as part of the weekly surveillance testing and (2) proof of receiving at least the first dose.

Visitors must be masked.

**Intercollegiate Athletics**
All students engaging in intercollegiate athletics must be vaccinated, consistent with the New York State directive for SUNY Campuses the SUNY COVID-19 Vaccination Policy.

Enforcement of that mandate will become effective on and after 8/23/2021

All students are encouraged to wear masks in group athletic activities, regardless of vaccination status.

Students using Syracuse University’s facilities or accessing its campus are required to be vaccinated. The Campus Mask Status framework implemented by Syracuse University must be followed. Students should be aware of the status level.

However, a student who is partially-vaccinated, having the first dose of vaccine without reaching full vaccination status, may be allowed to participate in intercollegiate athletics, provided that such student also show (1) proof of a negative COVID-19 test (PCR) conducted as part of the weekly surveillance testing and (2) proof of receiving at least the first dose.

Spectators must be masked, and viewing access may be limited based on changing conditions.

**Testing**

The testing requirements are subject to change based on updated requirements and new knowledge and practices. Further details will be provided. Weekly testing will be conducted for ESF by Syracuse University at Kimmel Dining Hall.

- **Fully Vaccinated Campus Community Members**
  Faculty, staff, and students who are fully vaccinated may opt-out from weekly testing requirements, but will still be periodically required to participate in surveillance testing. Each week a subset of our on-campus community will receive an email directing them to the Syracuse University Testing Center. More details to follow.

- **Unvaccinated Students**
  Weekly testing is required for students who are unvaccinated or who have not shown proof of vaccination (every seven days). Individual compliance with this requirement will be closely monitored. Failure to comply with this requirement will be treated as a violation of the ESF Code of Student Conduct and handled as outlined in the ESF Student Handbook.

- **Unvaccinated Faculty and Staff**
  Weekly testing is required for faculty and staff who are unvaccinated or who have not shown proof of vaccination. Failure to comply with this requirement will be addressed by Human Resources.

This guidance is effective as of 8/28/2021 and is subject to revision at any time. More specific guidance may be provided by departments or offices within ESF.
Additional Information & Resources

- SUNY – Returning to Campus Safely this Fall: https://www.suny.edu/campus-reopening/
- SUNY – Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccine for Students: https://www.suny.edu/about/leadership/board-of-trustees/meetings/webcastdocs/Mandatory%20Vaccine%20Resolution.pdf
- Onondaga County https://covid19.ongov.net/
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention https://www.cdc.gov/
- Syracuse University – COVID Alert Framework: https://www.syracuse.edu/staysafe/covid-alert-framework/
- Syracuse University – Stay Safe – Frequently Asked Questions: https://www.syracuse.edu/staysafe/frequently-asked-questions/#s:facilities-considerations
- ESF – COVID-19 Updates: https://www.esf.edu/restart/