Spring 2022 Return to Campus FAQs
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Do students have to participate in on-campus return-to-campus testing?
Yes, testing and a negative result from a test performed at the Syracuse University testing site are required for returning students. Tests must be performed and a negative result produced between Jan. 24 and Feb. 4, but preferably within 72 hours of arrival on campus.

Will ESF offer on-site testing upon return to campus in January?
Testing is available at SU for all asymptomatic members of the ESF community. Visit the SU website for the most current information.

Students who believe they may have been exposed or who are experiencing COVID-like symptoms should stay home, report their symptoms and exposure, and call Crouse Medical Practice at 315-766-1628 for medical evaluation/diagnostic COVID testing. Faculty and staff experiencing COVID-like symptoms should stay home and call their primary care provider.

Can I use a home test to return to campus?
You must provide a negative result from a test performed at the SU testing site, preferably within 72 hours of arrival to campus. Testing is available at SU for all asymptomatic members of the ESF community. Visit the SU website for the most current information.

What happens if my test is positive? Will ESF have a place for me to isolate?
The isolation requirement for those who test positive for COVID remains unchanged relative to last year. If you test positive, regardless of your vaccination status, a legal order from the Onondaga County Health Department directs that you isolate for a period of 10 days. Similar to last year, ESF is fully prepared to provide isolation housing for students who live on campus, and for those who cannot safely isolate in their off-campus apartments. If needed, transportation can be provided to Shapero Hall at Onondaga Community College, the location of isolation housing.

Does everyone have to get tested regardless of vaccination/booster status?
Yes. Testing is one of the most effective COVID mitigation tools we have at our disposal. Given the sharp increase in COVID cases, and the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, public health officials require everyone to be tested regardless of vaccination and booster status to promote a safe return to campus in January.

Do I need to get a booster shot?
COVID-19 vaccine boosters are required for all SUNY students, effective Jan. 15, to engage in in-person activities sponsored by ESF, including classes, labs, extracurricular activities, and sports once you become eligible. People who received their COVID-19 vaccine can generally get their booster six months after their second dose or two months after the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

SU also requires eligible individuals to receive a booster shot by Jan. 24.
Why are you requiring testing for vaccinated (or boosted) students?
Testing is one of the most effective COVID mitigation tools we have at our disposal. Given the sharp increase in COVID cases, and the rapid spread of the Omicron variant—even among vaccinated and boosted people—public health officials require everyone to be tested regardless of vaccination and booster status to promote a safe return to campus in January.

Are faculty and staff required to test to return to campus, too?
Management Confidential staff will be required to test prior to the start of the Spring semester. UUP staff and CSEA represented staff are not required to test at this time.

Can we be tested before we return?
No. Testing and a negative result from a test performed at the SU testing site are required.

By when do we have to get tested?
Returning students will need to show a negative test performed at the SU testing site between Jan. 24 and Feb. 4, but preferably within 72 hours of arrival on campus.

When will Centennial Hall Open for the Spring Semester?
To coincide with the new academic calendar, Centennial Hall will reopen for returning students on Friday, Jan. 21. New students will move into Centennial Hall on Jan. 20 to allow for participation in orientation activities.

Can I move into Centennial Hall earlier to maintain my previous travel arrangements?
No. For health and safety reasons, Centennial Hall will not open for returning students until Jan. 21. Centennial Hall will not have staffing or other services available to accommodate early arrivals. Residents may need to adjust travel arrangements, including plane or train tickets, to coincide with this new schedule. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.

Why are we not starting classes online instead of starting the semester later?
Because ESF’s relationship with SU is central to our operations and the services that our students enjoy, we have historically aligned our academic calendar with SU’s. Due to our shared course registration system, starting the semester one week later on Jan. 24 is the best option for our students that opt to take courses at SU, as well as for SU students that opt to take courses at ESF.

While both SU and ESF would prefer to stick with the academic calendar as adopted for the 2021-2022 academic year, given the sharp increase in COVID cases, the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, and warnings from public health officials, this action is being taken to promote a sustainable, in-class experience when the Spring semester begins in January.

What should I do if the changed semester dates interfere with pre-existing plans?
The decisions we’re making in real time in order to protect the health and safety of the College community will pose inconveniences for some. We encourage you to communicate with your prospective employers and instructors, and request flexibility with your employment start date and
finals schedule. Feel free to share communications you receive from the College to support your request.

**Spring Break is not going to change, right?**
Spring Break is still March 13-20, as originally scheduled. This is a much-needed and deserved break for our students.

**When is graduation going to be held?**
Joint commencement with SU is scheduled for May 15. ESF holds its own commencement ceremony, in addition to the joint commencement with SU, and the date has yet to be determined.

**Why is everything constantly changing?**
We understand the frustration that frequent changes may cause. Conditions are changing as more knowledge is gained about the virus, its variants, and transmissibility. Protocols will be adjusted as needed to promote a healthy and safe campus environment for students, faculty, and staff. ESF must continue to comply with any additional requirements imposed by regulating entities, including New York state, SUNY, and local health departments.

ESF reserves the right to revise its policies, procedures, and protocols as it deems appropriate to operate its campus. Updated information will be relayed periodically to the ESF campus community using a variety of means, including by email to the address on file and on the ESF COVID Restart page.

**What is the current vaccine and booster policy for COVID-19?**
**Students:** SUNY continues to require all students to provide evidence of vaccination. Pursuant to this policy, students are considered fully vaccinated for the initial course of vaccination: (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.

For the Spring 2022 semester, New York state requires all students engaging in in-person activities sponsored by ESF to get a booster shot when eligible. "In-person Activities" include classes, labs, extracurricular activities, and sports. Students who recently received their COVID-19 vaccine may be eligible to get their booster six months after their second dose or two months after the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

SU requires all eligible individuals to receive a booster shot by Jan. 24, and this is in addition to the initial course of vaccination for COVID-19 and a flu shot.

Each student must show proof of such vaccinations to the Division of Student Affairs.

**Faculty and Staff:** All faculty and staff are encouraged to get vaccinated and receive a booster when eligible. (Management Confidential employees are required to be vaccinated.) Proof of such vaccination and booster shots may be provided to ESF Human Resources.

SU requires all eligible individuals to receive a booster shot by Jan. 24, and this is in addition to the initial course of vaccination for COVID-19 and a flu shot.