

# SUNY ESF Covid-19 Surveillance Testing Plan for Fall 2020 and Testing Policy for Departing Campus in Fall 2020

**11/9/20**

## Campus Demographics

SUNY ESF is located in Syracuse NY and is adjacent to the Syracuse University campus. The ESF campus has one dorm currently housing 425 students. The typical number of employees on campus for the Fall of 2020 semester has been ~150 as determined by mandatory daily COVID-19 screening questionnaire.

## Testing Types and Frequency

**Pooled Testing** - ESF has been using Upstate's pooled saliva testing since April for select research groups and activities. All dormitory residents were tested upon entry, and ~75% of our entire student body had been tested by the end of our first week of classes. As of this writing ESF has taken over 5500 pooled samples. Notably, we have had only 2 infections detected via pooled surveillance. Setting Upstate's saliva test sensitivity at 95% (a conservative estimate) at the end of the first week of classes our testing effort gave us 99.9% confidence that true infection in our student body was less than 0.5%. In cooperation with Syracuse University we are currently testing our student and employee population that visit campus for class or other purposes. Plans for regular ongoing surveillance testing include:

- Bi-weekly testing of all athletes (140 students)
- Stratified random sampling of the student body and employees (as directed by Union MOUs) every week resulting in the ability to detect disease at ~1% prevalence (440-500 tests)
- Testing of all classrooms and or offices where a known or suspected exposure occurred

**Individual Tests** - Upstate's pooled saliva testing is capable of obtaining individual results through reflex testing (with additional provided information). ESF also has an off campus provider Crouse Medical Practice (CMP) 739 Irving Ave. Syracuse NY, who currently administers nasal pharyngeal swab testing and will soon provide rapid COVID-19 testing using the BD Veritor Plus Analyzer (results in ~15 mins). This facility is approximately two blocks from campus and well within walking distance. Test results are directly communicated to Dr. Brian Leydet of the ESF Covid-19 Contact Group via secure email or telephone call. Symptomatic students are referred to CMP for clinical evaluation (conducted via tele-therapy). NPT and Rapid tests will not be used for asymptomatic individuals because of the frequency and number of saliva pool testing being conducted on campus.

**Wastewater Testing** – As mentioned earlier, ESF has one dormitory housing 425 students. Given this small residential population, our current low infection rate, the frequency of our continued pooled testing strategy, and our capability for nearby rapid antigen testing, we feel waste water surveillance is not necessary or efficient, and that our limited resources are much better directed towards pooled sampling efforts. Additionally, an ESF engineer, plumber, public health personnel, and various maintenance staff thoroughly reviewed the dormitory, its grounds, and building drawings and concluded it was not feasible to obtain remotely representative samples due to building sewage system configurations.

**Plan Logistics** – This plan has been created by Dr. Brian F. Leydet, an assistant professor of epidemiology and disease ecology in the ESF Department of Environmental and Forest Biology, and John Wasiel, Environmental Health & Safety Officer. Brian Leydet and John Wasiel are responsible for logistics, including test site setup, and training. Brian Leydet is responsible for chain of custody of samples. John Wasiel is responsible for PPE, materials procurement, training, coordinating testing space use, and communications. Brian has thoroughly trained 11 volunteer students to assist with sampling efforts, and they and Brian are DOH certified contact tracers. Sampling is performed on both the ESF and Syracuse University campus for ESF students. Beginning this November, ESF will be integrating testing with Syracuse University employing staff, volunteers, and resources from both colleges. Results are communicated between ESF and Syracuse University in real time, so that we are continually monitoring each other's prevalence and can rapidly make adjustments to testing strategies. Results are usually returned in 2 to 3 business days, and students will be notified via email (negative test) or phone (positive test). All supplies, including test kits, PPE, pooling supplies, and lab facilities have been secured in adequate quantities well in advance of the implemented testing program.

**Isolation and Quarantine Protocol** - Dr. Brian F. Leydet, an assistant professor of epidemiology and disease ecology in the ESF Department of Environmental and Forest Biology, and John Wasiel, Environmental Health & Safety Officer are respectfully the coordinator and backup coordinator for the isolation and quarantine process in close coordination with the Onondaga County Health Department. The on campus dormitory has reserved 25 rooms for isolation/quarantine needs. Additionally, ESF and Onondaga Community College are sharing a designated 200 bed residence hall on the nearby OCC campus to accommodate the isolation of COVID-19 positive students and to provide space for the precautionary quarantine of students with potential exposure. Isolating and quarantining students will be housed on separate floors of this 4-story facility. This facility is also available to quarantine and isolate off-campus students who are without a proper quarantine or isolation facility.

Students and employees with potential exposure are required to report through an online ESF form. The form will be reviewed by the ESF Covid-19 Contact Group. An ESF Covid-19 Contact Group member will contact the reporting student/employee and review the details of the potential exposure. The ESF Covid-19 Contact Group will determine if contact tracing and/or testing of the exposed person is necessary. During the review period and while waiting for test results, students may be relocated from a shared residence hall room to a vacant room within the on campus dormitory. At the conclusion of the review, tracing and/or testing period, the ESF Covid-19 Contact Group will determine whether students need to continue quarantine at the OCC facility or if they may remain in the on campus dormitory.

If a resident student tests positive for Covid-19 following a nasopharyngeal test, they will be required to leave the on-campus dormitory, and follow the New York State Department of Health Guidelines before returning to campus. Guidelines will be communicated by the Department of Health but generally require isolation for 10 days for asymptomatic individuals, or until 3 days after the cessation of symptoms for symptomatic individuals.

Covid-19 positive students will be transported to the OCC isolation facility via Onondaga County Emergency Management Services or other approved transportation providers. During the isolation period students will receive meals delivery, a daily health and wellness call from an ESF student affairs case manager, and have access to tele-medicine calls with medical practitioners from Crouse Medical Practice. The Onondaga County Department of Health and the ESF Covid-19 Contact Group will oversee the student's progression and determine release procedures. Previously positive students will not be allowed to resume residence in Centennial Hall until cleared to do so by the Onondaga County Health Department.

**Plan Data Management** - The main contact for testing data management is Dr. Brian F. Leydet, an assistant professor of epidemiology and disease ecology in the ESF Department of Environmental and Forest Biology. Because many of ESF's and Syracuse's Systems are integrated, Dr. Leydet has been granted access to SU COVID data collection and management system. ESF testing data is collected and stored using a system developed and managed by Syracuse University. Upon sampling, student ID numbers are scanned and given a unique identifying number (UIN). The UIN is linked to the saliva sample barcode number in a separate database to protect student identification. Twelve to sixteen sample barcode numbers are combined into a unique pool sample number in a separate database. Upstate University reports back results of unique pool numbers directly to Dr. Leydet via secured google spreadsheet. Dr. Leydet can then pull up student ID numbers through the SU system based on sample barcode and UIN. Data maintained at SU is stored on a secure server with daily backups and daily quality control checks. Access is restricted to users on the Syracuse network or password protected virtual private networks as well as a password-controlled collection app. This app allows various levels of user access to systems that include collection programs, saliva pooling programs, data reporting programs and storage, allowing for tiered access.

**Contact Tracing** - Dr. Brian F. Leydet, an assistant professor of epidemiology and disease ecology in the ESF Department of Environmental and Forest Biology, and 11 volunteer students have completed the necessary training to become DOH certified contact tracers. This staff has been provided with needed designated cell phones and laptop computers, and have a direct line of communication with a representative of the Onondaga County Health Department to coordinate the most effective and expeditious process for contact tracing. Beginning this semester ESF contact tracing will also assist in staffing of the Syracuse university contact tracing center and assist in tracing effort in both communities.

## Testing Policy for Departing Campus in Fall 2020

**Mandatory Testing of Students.** All students taking at least one class on campus, utilizing services on campus, or working on campus must receive a PCR COVID-19 test within 10-days prior to the campus closing on-campus instruction and services on November 24. Students may be exempted from the mandatory testing required if they are non-residential students not taking any classes on campus nor utilizing any in-person campus services. Students will have the option of providing documentation to the campus of a COVID-19 diagnostic result within the same 10-day period. Students may also provide documentation to the campus of a previous positive COVID-19 diagnostic result within the previous 90 days. Students have been informed in writing that departure testing is required. Failure to comply will result in referral to the Office of Student Affairs for a student code of conduct violation and consequences will align with SUNY's Uniform Sanctions in response to COVID-19 Student violations.

**Testing of Faculty and Staff.** Faculty and staff will be tested at the same rate as in all other weeks as mentioned above pursuant to the testing MOUs between the Chancellor and UUP, PEF, CSEA, and the PBA. Additionally, we plan to open voluntary testing to all faculty/staff and during the same period and location as students. In addition to employees, all campus occupants will be identified between the Thanksgiving break and the return to campus for the Spring semester. This will include undergraduate and graduate research students, work study students, and volunteers. Occupants using campus during this period will be randomly selected for testing with 50% of on campus population being selected weekly.

**Quarantine and Isolation.** ESF plans to isolate/quarantine any residential student who tests positive for COVID-19 or has been exposed to COVID-19 within 14-days before the fall closing. We will work with and follow the guidance of the Onondaga County Health Department for the length of isolation/quarantine and release protocols. As mentioned above, options for quarantine/isolation locations include ESF's own Centennial Hall and Shapero Hall at OCC, and ESF will be fully attendant to students who are quarantined or isolated at these locations. Any non-residential student, faculty or staff who tests positive for COVID-19 or has been exposed to COVID-19, within 14-days before the fall closing must follow the guidance of the Onondaga County Health Department on the length of isolation/quarantine and release protocols. Non-residential students will be provided the option of quarantine/isolation at OCC's Shapero Hall. It is possible for students to fulfill quarantine in their country of residence and in these cases we will work together with the Onondaga County Health Department to insure proper communications to the county where quarantine will be fulfilled.

**Scheduling.** It is expected that departure testing will be made available for all students and employees each day from November 11-19 from 10 am to 4 pm. Students will be required to submit for testing close to their departure date but with sufficient time to receive a test result with this turn-around time being typically 2 days, but ESF will remain in contact with Upstate's laboratory to ensure up to date scheduling.

**Emphasis of Safety Protocols.** ESF has a “College Commitment” statement that reinforces the obligation to limit contact, wear masks, and practice social distancing. This commitment will be emphasized upon taking their COVID-19 test and departure in order to avoid any potential exposure, and explicitly encourage them to continue to practice such precautionary measures even when they have departed from campus in the time between semesters.

**Move Out.** A schedule for move out will be developed to minimize close contact during move out process. Students will be required to sign up for a designed move out time slot. Only one external person will be allowed to assist students with the moving of personal belongings. All external helpers will undergo health screening before entering the dormitory, and masks will be worn at all times (inside and outside of building) during the move out process. There will be designated move out staging areas with signage, and a key drop box and instructions for online check out posted for students leaving after hours. Draft communications have been created explaining testing and move out procedures.