



Fall 2022: Public Health Guidance

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry – Campus at Syracuse

(Revised 8/23/2022)

This document provides an overview of public health guidelines and protocols planned for the Fall 2022 semester, as recommended by the ESF COVID-19 Response Team in accordance with 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 promote a healthy and safe campus environment for students, faculty, and staff.

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-19 page](#).

Vaccine and Booster Policy

Students: The College's vaccination requirement for students participating in on campus activities to be fully vaccinated. This policy remains unchanged from the 2021-2022 academic year.

Pursuant to the SUNY COVID-19 Vaccination [policy](#), students are considered fully vaccinated for the initial series 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.

Access to Syracuse University (SU) facilities requires the initial series, plus one booster dose upon eligibility. Individuals who are not yet eligible to receive a booster will be required to receive a booster shot **within 30 days of becoming eligible**. People who received their COVID-19 vaccine can typically get their booster five months after their second dose or two months after the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. Consultation with a medical professional may be appropriate to determine eligibility based on specific factors within an individual's medical history.

Any student who believes they should be excused from complying with the COVID-19 vaccination policy requirements may apply for an exemption or an accommodation. More information can be found [here](#).

Each student must [provide proof](#) of such vaccinations (primary series and booster dose) to the College. More information on how to submit documentation is [here](#).

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

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



Masking

Masking is optional in all campus settings for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, except where it remains required by the NYS Department of Health (i.e., healthcare facilities and while on public transportation). ESF's masking policy remains subject to public health orders issued by the Onondaga County Health Department, the New York State Department of Health, and SUNY, and will be adjusted if directed by relevant authorities.

Individual offices and course instructors may request masking of all employees, students, and visitors while in areas under their control. Such requests must be consistent with relevant subject-to-change NYS guidelines and ESF policies.

We strongly encourage all members of the campus community to consider masking based on an assessment of personal risk, especially when in large groups, high-density areas of campus, or in response to an exposure to a known COVID-positive individual.

If you need a mask, they are available in single quantities at the Moon Library Circulation and the Help Desk in 317 Baker Lab. Bulk quantities of surgical masks are available by making a request to pvandemark@esf.edu.

Surveillance Testing

The Syracuse University Testing Center will not re-open in the fall.

ESF will discontinue mandatory COVID surveillance testing on campus for employees and for fully vaccinated students.

Students who have not shown proof of vaccination (approved exemption or accommodation) will be required to undergo periodic surveillance testing. Frequency of the testing will be determined by current COVID-19 transmission rates. Exempted students will be contacted directly and provided specific guidance for the surveillance testing process.

Symptomatic students, faculty, and staff should access testing via community providers or utilize self-administered, at-home test kits. Questions about testing should be directed to [ESF's COVID Coordinator](#).

[Free at-home tests](#) are currently available and may be ordered from the federal government. Students may also obtain tests from [Crouse Medical Practice](#) and Centennial Hall residents can request them from the front desk.

Quarantine & Isolation

ESF will follow the quarantine and isolation guidance established by the New York State Department of Health, as they may be updated from time to time. Individuals are asked to follow that guidance, which will be provided by ESF's COVID-19 Coordinator. ESF will keep general information available on its [website](#).



Centennial Hall will continue to provide off-campus isolation housing to on-campus students who test positive for COVID-19. Residents will not be permitted to reside in Centennial Hall during their period of isolation. Residents can choose to isolate at their permanent home address if desired.

Students who live off campus and test positive for COVID-19 will be responsible for securing their own isolation housing, if required, at their own expense.

Where to Obtain the COVID-19 Vaccine

Vaccines and boosters are available at no cost and are available widely at pharmacies. You can make an appointment at:

- [New York State Department of Health](#) – appointments at state-run sites and private-sites
- [Vaccines.gov](#) – shows sites within 25 miles of ESF (zip code 13210)
- [Walgreens](#) – with locations near the ESF campus
- [Kinney Drugs](#) – with locations near the ESF campus
- [Wegmans](#) – with locations near the ESF campus

Health Benefits and Risks of COVID-19 Vaccinations

People who become infected with the COVID-19 virus and its variants may become severely ill and experience debilitating long-term effects. Death is a potential outcome.

Each individual's health status is unique. This is not medical advice. To receive specific advice for you based on your own health history and risk factors, please consult with a medical professional.

Generally, [studies](#) indicate that vaccinated individuals are [shown](#) to be less likely to die or to otherwise become severely ill from contracting the virus. Not only does this protect the vaccinated individual, but it also reduces the impact on the healthcare system and frees resources for other patient needs.

You may experience side-effects from the [vaccination](#), including on the arm where you received the injection and in the rest of your body, including fever, chills, and soreness. It should be noted that there have been reports of rare cases of myocarditis and pericarditis in adolescents and young adults, but the CDC continues to recommend [vaccination](#) because of the benefits.

Beyond Health - Consequences for Failure to Obtain a Vaccine

The vaccination mandate is a strict policy with serious repercussions that was put in place to protect the health and safety of our campus. Students who do not comply (or who have not provided proof of vaccination) shall be administratively withdrawn from their in-person courses and their registration will be deactivated, preventing them from participating in classes, labs, and ESF activities. Withdrawal and refunds will be consistent with SUNY and ESF policies, procedures, and schedules.

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. ESF offers a hands-on learning approach, with many courses involving field work and lab experience, that are not practically held online.



ESF is attempting to continue in-person activities on campus and to promote a safe and healthy campus community. Our campus also relies on a close collaboration with Syracuse University, making use of its facilities and classrooms to supplement the educational experience on the ESF campus, and this is why ESF aligns itself closely with its requirements and expectations.

Further Information

Answers to frequently asked questions are available on the [ESF COVID Restart page](#).

This guidance is effective as of (insert date) and is subject to revision at any time. More specific guidance may be provided by departments or offices within ESF.

Additional Resources

ESF – COVID-19 Updates: <https://www.esf.edu/restart/>

- SUNY – COVID-19 Vaccination Policy (Doc. No. 3100): https://www.suny.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc_id=900
- SUNY – [COVID-19 Guidance for Fall 2022](#): <https://www.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/health-alert/SUNY-COVID-Guidance---Summer-Fall-2022.pdf>
- New York State – Department of Health – COVID-19 Vaccine: <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>
- Onondaga County: <https://covid19.ongov.net/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/>
- Syracuse University – Stay Safe – Frequently Asked Questions: <https://www.syracuse.edu/staysafe/frequently-asked-questions/#s:facilities-considerations>
- Syracuse University – Immunizations: <https://ese.syr.edu/bewell/immunizations/>
- FDA – approval (8/23/2021): <https://www.fda.gov/media/151710/download>