

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

As we return to campus this January for the Spring Term, SUNY Maritime College's first priority is the health and safety of our campus community, including its students, faculty, and staff.

Any of us can spread this disease and cause harm to others. The disease can be passed by a friend, study companion, family member, or a colleague (student or faculty/staff member). It takes all of us working together to make Maritime College safe and healthy, where educational success is possible.

Here's what you need to know as you prepare to return to campus for the Spring 2021 term:

Stay Informed

It is essential that you read the emails you receive from the College. This is especially important as the plans and guidance for returning to campus can change based on the COVID-19 virus situation, and as new guidance or Executive Orders are issued by the Governor's Office, the New York Department of Health, or other appropriate New York State Agencies. You should also check the Maritime College [COVID-19/Re-start webpage](#).

Maritime College Spring Schedule

The following is the current schedule for the Spring Term and is subject to change:

Jan 6	USCG License Examination participants return to campus for testing
Jan 8	Classes start. All classes remote Jan 8 - Jan 22
Jan 10-16	Quarantine period for returning residential students requiring to quarantine
Jan 10	Returning residential students commence 7-day precautionary quarantine
Jan 11-15	USCG License Examination
Jan 13	COVID testing for residential students quarantining on-campus
Jan 17	All remaining residential students return to campus – tested within 5 days
Jan 18	MLK Holiday – No Classes
Jan 19/20	Residential Student COVID testing
Jan 25	Commence face-to-face instruction
Jan 25-27	Commuter Student and faculty/staff COVID testing
Jan 29	January Commencement Ceremony (Virtual)
Apr 9	Last day of classes
Apr 12-16	Final Examinations
Apr 22-26	Summer Sea Term Pre-cruise
Apr 23	Commencement
Apr 27	TS Empire State VI Departs for Summer Sea Term

- Per SUNY policy, given the current risks associated with the COVID-19 spread, spring break and other spring holiday periods are not permitted.

Return to Campus Safely – Testing and Isolation Requirements

Prior to returning to campus, all students must:

1. Conduct a precautionary self-quarantine for seven-days before returning to campus to minimize their potential exposure to COVID-19. This includes:
 - a. Staying at home to the greatest extent possible
 - b. Wearing PPE when in public
 - c. Avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people. Even in small gatherings, practice social distancing and wear a face mask.
2. Submit a daily health screening through the Campus Clear app and sign a health attestation/pre-screen form upon arrival attesting that they have completed a seven-day precautionary self-quarantine.
3. Present evidence of a negative or pending COVID-19 test taken within three days prior to their return.

No student will be permitted to return to campus, access their residence hall room, or start classes without signing an attestation form with Health Services or proof of a negative or pending COVID-19 test taken within three days. If a student tested positive for COVID-19 within the past three months, they should contact health services for guidance.

Once students return, they will be directed to schedule a second COVID-19 test. This test will be conducted by Student Health Services.

Get Tested Regularly

After the initial return to campus testing, Maritime College will resume random surveillance testing of testing the entire campus community every two weeks (students, faculty, and staff). If internal metrics indicate a significant increase in positive test results, the College will increase the frequency of testing and conduct specific cohort testing.

Participation in surveillance testing is mandatory for all students. Students who decline to participate will not be allowed access to any community area (classrooms, labs, Mess Deck) or permitted to attend any on-campus classes or activities. They will also be referred to the judicial process and face potential sanctions as outlined in the [Uniform Sanctioning in Response to COVID-19 Student Violations](#).

Get Screened Daily

Students must complete a daily health screening using the CampusClear app.

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 is highly contagious, these simple measures apply **both on and off-campus**:

- **Wear face coverings.** Face coverings (masks) must be worn by all members of the campus community on campus at all times, including in classrooms, conference rooms and other spaces, even when six-foot social distancing exists. Exceptions to mask wearing include when students are (1) in their private residential or personal space, (2) eating meals on campus while seated and social distancing is appropriately enforced, or (3) by themselves. Faculty and staff are likewise exempt when alone in their office or other space.

- **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** at all times to reduce transmission.

If Exposed, Complete Mandatory Quarantine and Isolation

Students who test positive for COVID-19, have been exposed to individuals who tested positive for COVID-19, or are informed by a state or local health department or medical or campus official that they are “at-risk” for having COVID-19 may be required to quarantine or isolate. This may include taking classes remotely and not going to dining halls and other campus facilities. Students identified for quarantine and isolation will have access to certain assistance, such as food and medicine delivery. They may also receive psychosocial, academic, and/or other supports, as needed. Students who test positive or have been exposed to individuals who tested positive must cooperate with contact tracers.

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. Students may also be referred to the judicial process to face possible sanctions for violating the College's COVID health and safety protocols. 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.

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cdamico@sunymaritime.edu

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/middle-earth.php>.

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

Understand What’s Being Offered On-Campus and Online

All classes will be held remotely from January 8 to 22. Face-to-face instruction will convene on Monday, January 25.

Barring unforeseen circumstances, Maritime College plans to offer 63 percent of courses in a face-to-face format following the two-week remote period. Students can check what format a class section will utilize by signing into Banner.

Get Instructional and Technology Help

SUNY offers a variety of resources through the [Open SUNY Helpdesk](#). Students who are experiencing difficulty accessing online materials, or who are unable to access the Internet or other technology needed to complete courses may contact:

IT Help Desk

Email: helpdesk@sunymaritime.edu

Phone: 718-409-6917

Request Accommodations for Disabilities

Students who wish to disclose covered disabilities and receive reasonable accommodations for their disabilities should contact Dr. Sherill Anderson at 718-409-7348 or email at sanderson@sunymaritime.edu

Follow Housing and Dining Updates

Dining Schedule:

January 6	USCG License students
January 10 – 16	All students, meal boxes
January 17	Meal plans would open 1100am

Housing:

In remaining vigilant against COVID-19, the Housing Office will continue to ensure the safety of all students while conducting Spring check-in. Upon arriving to campus, students will be directed to Health Services to submit their attestation form and COVID-19 test result. No student will be allowed access to the residential halls without their forms being reviewed/verified by Health Services. Any student who attempts to circumvent this housing check-in procedure by accessing the residential halls without first meeting with Health Services will face judicial action which may result in immediate removal from housing.

To ensure compliance, all students MUST check-in during Health Services operation hours (8am to 4pm). No student will be permitted to check-in outside of these operational hours. We understand this time frame may pose some difficulties, however, for the safety of all students no exceptions will be made. Please note that students will be turned away if they arrive outside of Health Services operational hours. Additionally, any student who assists another student in gaining access to a room without following proper procedures will face judicial action, which may result in immediate removal from housing.

The key features of this year's move-in process are:

- Before returning to campus, all residential students must read and sign the [Housing Social Distance Contract](#).
- Students will NOT be given access to their dorm room without submittal of the attestation form and COVID-19 test results to Health Services during operational hours.
- No outside guest will be allowed in the residential halls.

- All students are expected to wear face masks/covering and to maintain proper social distancing at all times while on campus and in the residence hall.
- All elevators in the residence halls will be limited to a maximum of two people.
- The College will not supply students with individual cleaning supplies, and all students must bring their own personal supplies.
- We strongly encourage students to bring as few personal belongings as possible for the semester. Doing so will help ensure a quick and easy unloading process. If you live in New hall, please note that you MUST supply your own bathroom toiletries such as toilet tissue.
- No furniture shall be removed from students' room. Room set-up will remain as is. Students who remove room furniture may be charged the replacement value of the furniture and may face student conduct action.
- All students who plan to be on campus should monitor themselves for COVID-19 symptoms for a minimum of 7 days prior to arriving on campus. If you had close contact with a person who has COVID-19, you must quarantine and be clear of COVID-19 symptoms before returning to campus. If you suspect or know that you have COVID-19, you must isolate and only return to campus once cleared by your medical provider.

We strongly encourage you to clear all outstanding items prior to your arrival; this will ensure a smooth check-in. To check your student account, please visit TouchNet (SUNY Maritime's new electronic billing system). Through TouchNet, you will be able to view the bill online, set-up authorized users, make a one-time online payment, set-up a payment plan, print a copy of the E-Bill and confirm the balance.

If We Have to Pivot to Remote Instruction

If after we go to face-to-face instruction, we have to pivot to remote classes, all students, faculty, and staff will be notified.

Students will not be required to move out of the residence halls. Although we are shifting to remote learning and no face-to-face classes will be held, residence halls will remain open. The College will provide a safe and supportive environment. All student services will continue to be provided, including dining services, health services, mental health counseling, tutoring, library, services for students with disabilities, international student services, Title IX, and others. Additional information will be promulgated about student activities, athletics, and dining services.

If We Have to PAUSE On-campus Operations

If the campus must switch to a two-week (or longer) pause of on-campus operations, information will be promulgated regarding the requirement to vacate residential halls. No students will be permitted to leave campus without clearance from Student Health Services. Specific check out instructions will be provided. Students who move out without college clearance will forfeit any refunds and may be referred to the judicial process for violating the College's COVID health and safety protocols. They are also subject to sanctions outlined in the Uniform Sanctioning in Response to COVID-19 Student Violations.