



To: SUNY Campus Presidents

From: Office of the Chancellor

Date: December 18, 2020

Subject: Continuation of 14-day Measurement Periods for the Temporary Suspension of In-Person Learning on College and University Campuses In New York State.

As a follow-up to the September 14, 2020 memo on temporary suspension of in-person learning, this is a reminder that the 14-day measurement periods of infection rates on campus does not discontinue at the end of this semester. The measurement periods were incorporated in the Higher Education Supplemental Guidance issued on August 28, 2020 which established minimum infection rate thresholds for the temporary suspension of in-person learning on college and university campuses in New York State (see attached).

Guidance: Beginning with each 14-day measurement period, whenever the lesser of 100 individuals or 5% of the total on-campus population – inclusive of students, faculty, and staff – of a higher education institution location test positive for COVID-19 within a 14-day period, the location must immediately (1) transition all in-person learning to remote format(s) and (2) limit on-campus activities for a period of 14 days.

For purposes of temporary suspension, campuses should measure the infection rate of their total on-campus population only during the individual separate 14-day periods and not as a rolling average.

Additional periods are listed below and continue until further guidance is issued from the Department of Health:

Measurement Periods

Period 9: Dec 19 – Jan 1, 2021

Period 10: Jan 2-Jan 15

Period 11: Jan 16-Jan 29

Period 12: Jan 30-Feb 12

- Period 13: Feb 13 -Feb 26
- Period 14: Feb 27-March 12
- Period 15: March 13-March 26
- Period 16: March 27-April 9
- Period 17: April 10-April 23
- Period 18: April 24-May 7
- Period 19: May 8-May 21

Notwithstanding the guidance above, each campus should continue to closely monitor the rolling average and maintain the ability to take aggressive and more restrictive action whenever trends emerge, and it is deemed warranted. Any additional restrictions should be made in consultation with the Chancellor’s office and the local department of health **prior to any public announcement.**

Mandatory Actions if Threshold is Reached: If the infection rate threshold is reached during any period, in-person athletic events, extracurricular programs, and other non-essential student activities must be suspended, and dining hall(s) and other on-campus food services must be converted into take-out or delivery models, as appropriate. Essential on-campus functions are authorized to continue as described in the “Limitations of On-Campus Activity” section as identified in the Supplemental Guidance. After the 14-day period, the local health department(s) where the higher education institution is located shall evaluate the institution’s efforts to contain COVID-19 transmission at such location. If the local health department(s), in consultation with DOH, determines that the institution has demonstrated that community spread of COVID-19 has been effectively contained, the location shall be authorized to reopen for in-person learning. However, if after the 14-day period, the institution has not demonstrated that community spread of COVID-19 has been contained at such location, the local health department(s), in consultation with DOH, may require a continued suspension of in-person learning (i.e., an extended period of remote learning) and/or further mitigation measures by the institution.

For further information, please see attached the Supplemental Guidance for Covid-19 Containment at Higher Education Institutions. Any questions please reach out to Valerie Dent at Valerie.Dent@suny.edu.

