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United University Professions

July 20, 2020

Dr. Merryl H. Tisch, Chairman
SUNY Board of Trustees
H. Carl McCall SUNY Building
353 Broadway
Albany, NY 12246

Dr. Tod Laursen, Provost & Senior Vice Chancellor
State University of New York
H. Carl McCall SUNY Building
353 Broadway
Albany, NY 12246

Robert Megna, Senior Vice Chancellor & Chief Operating Officer
State University of New York
H. Carl McCall SUNY Building
353 Broadway
Albany, NY 12246

Dear Chairman Tisch, Dr. Laursen and Mr. Megna:

I write to express UUP's profound and deepening concern regarding aspects of the fall reopening plans that the state-operated SUNY campuses have issued.

As you know, virtually all State-operated SUNY campuses are planning to bring students back to campus and provide some portion of their classes and other services in-person. Based on our review of these plans, and input from our members, our concerns are numerous. While some are campus specific, two of critical concern are common to campuses across the State:

- The glaring absence of plans for baseline testing of students and faculty as they return to campus or surveillance testing thereafter. See the enclosed SUNY State-Operated Campus Testing Plans summarizing currently announced plans for this testing.
- Resistance by a growing number of campus administrations to fully embracing telecommuting (on a full or part-time basis) to the greatest extent possible as the best means of reducing density and maintaining social distancing.

Effectively addressing these issues requires clear direction and support both from System Administration and from the State. I am seeking your support in accomplishing this. It is critical to protecting our students, our members, our families, and our communities.

Testing:

Current campus plans largely provide only for symptom monitoring and testing of symptomatic individual and their contacts. Waiting for symptoms to appear before testing is provided will miss asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic cases that could result in campus-closing outbreaks.

The CDC currently estimates that 40% of individuals with COVID 19 infections are asymptomatic and these individuals are 75% as infectious as symptomatic individuals. The CDC also estimates that 50% of COVID transmission by symptomatic individuals occurs prior to the onset of their symptoms. See, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/planning-scenarios.html#table-1>. A recent Yale study found that more than 50% of COVID transmission occurs due to contact with asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic individuals. See, <https://www.pnas.org/content/early/2020/07/02/2008373117>

The NYS Department of Health's recent study documented that much of the COVID 19 infection among nursing home residents occurred due to contact with asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic nursing home staff who unknowingly brought the infection to work. See, https://www.health.ny.gov/press/releases/2020/docs/nh_factors_report.pdf. To stop the devastating spread of COVID 19 in New York nursing homes, the Governor ultimately ordered that all nursing home staff regardless of symptoms be tested twice a week for COVID 19. See, <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20230-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency>

The Harvard Global Health Institute has concluded that "mitigation level" testing (i.e. testing of symptomatic individuals and contacts) is insufficient to stop COVID 19 outbreaks. "Suppression level" testing is necessary. "This requires large, proactive testing — **including regular testing of asymptomatic people in high-risk environments such as nursing homes, colleges, and parts of the service industry** — paired with rapid contact tracing and supported isolation (TTSI), as well as other measures." <https://globalhealth.harvard.edu/new-testing-targets-as-covid-19-outbreaks-grow-more-severe-most-u-s-states-still-fall-far-short-on-testing/> (emphasis added)

We are profoundly concerned about bringing 18 to 22 year-old young adults, who may be unwilling or literally unable to fully comply with social distancing rules, back to campus and into congregate living arrangements. As the pandemic spreads, currently driven in large part by young adults, bringing students back absent comprehensive baseline and surveillance testing may be setting our campuses up to become New York's next nursing homes – or cruise ships.

We understand that committing to "suppression level" testing on SUNY campuses is a challenging task logistically and financially. However, one must consider the cost of testing weighed against the cost of once again shutting campuses down mid-semester, not to mention

the societal costs of containing another outbreak and the heartbreak of resulting illness and loss of life.

SUNY campus administrations have been advancing a variety of reasons for why comprehensive testing is allegedly unnecessary, impossible, or too expensive. In the meantime, many private colleges and universities across the state are implementing plans for initial baseline testing and subsequent surveillance testing of students and in many cases faculty. The enclosed [NYS Private Colleges with Announced Testing Requirements](#) summarizes the plans for comprehensive testing that private colleges across the state have publicly announced.

New York private colleges have recognized the critical need to provide for baseline and surveillance testing. They have found or are developing ways to address the hurdles of doing so and have not resorted to excuses for why such testing is allegedly unnecessary, impossible, or too expensive. As a result, their campuses, and their surrounding communities, will be better able to identify and address outbreaks that will almost certainly occur among college students living on or near campuses before they spread out of control.

Comparing the announced testing plans of these private campuses with the announced testing plans of the SUNY State-operated campuses is a jarring experience which paints a picture of a “Tale of Two Cities.” Our students and the academic and professional staff at our campuses should not be compelled to play roulette with possible exposure to asymptomatic spread on campus while private colleges recognize and proactively attempt to protect against the possibility.

To remedy this, plans for baseline and surveillance testing must be required at all of SUNY’s State-operated campuses. While the details of how this is done at each campus may vary, pooled saliva testing (currently being developed at Upstate) shows promise as one cost effective means to accomplish this.

Telecommuting:

As you know, UUP and the State entered an historic agreement this spring, which allows UUP-represented employees to telecommute on either a fulltime or part-time basis. That agreement expressly recognized that telecommuting is an important component of a multi-layered strategy to prevent the spread of COVID 19. The agreement provides that where operationally feasible, telecommuting requests shall be assigned or approved to the greatest extent possible.

Since that time, UUP has continued to advocate for extensions of the Telecommuting Agreement as it remains the best tool available to reduce density (particularly in professional staff work areas) and maintain social distancing on campus. To date, the State has agreed to extend the Telecommuting Agreement through close of business October 2. We are continuing to advocate that the Telecommuting Agreement should be extended at least through December 31, 2020.

Unfortunately, we are increasingly receiving reports of campuses that are failing to honor the full scope and goal of the Telecommuting Agreement. One particularly glaring example is SUNY Fredonia which has directed that *all* professional staff report back to work on campus (the sole exceptions being medically documented high-risk individuals and those with *short-term* childcare issues). Other requests to telecommute by staff who successfully telecommuted this spring, and whose presence on campus is not necessary to complete their duties, are being routinely denied across the board.

SUNY Fredonia, while the most egregious, is not the only example. Increasingly, we are receiving reports from multiple campuses across the state suggesting that telecommuting requests will be denied this fall unless medically necessary or required to address childcare issues. These are obviously circumstances where the ability to telecommute, if at all possible, will be critical. However, they should not, and must not, be the only circumstances.

Telecommuting requests, where operationally feasible, must continue to be approved if requested, regardless of the individual reason for the request. This is necessary to best assure that all our members, our families, and our students are protected to the extent possible. I seek your assistance in assuring that campuses are required to make this so.

The upcoming Fall Semester will be the most challenging in the history of SUNY. As our nation continues to fail in controlling the spread of the Coronavirus, the responsibility on all of us in higher education is to serve as a model for how such control can be attained. I believe that we are obligated to utilize all measures available to avoid the spread of this deadly disease. Therefore, I continue to request that SUNY and the State of New York commit itself to robust baseline testing before the start of the semester and surveillance testing thereafter and that the employees of SUNY be granted liberal use of our telecommuting agreement. Both measures will serve to significantly reduce the chances for an outbreak of COVID-19 and protect our communities.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that SUNY is the benchmark for the nation when it comes to dealing with the Coronavirus. Hopefully, our collective efforts will prove successful.

Regards,



Frederick E. Kowal, Ph.D.
President
United University Professions
AFT/NYSUT Local 2190

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CC: The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of NYS
Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Temporary President & Majority Leader of the NYS Senate
Assemblymember Carl E. Heastie, Speaker of the NYS Assembly
Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, Senate Committee on Higher Education Chair
Assemblymember Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Committee on Higher Education Chair
Dr. Howard A. Zucker, Commissioner, NYS Department of Health
Dr. Kristen Navarette, Medical Director, NYS DOH Center for Environmental Health
Randi Weingarten, AFT President
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Dr. Grace Wang, SUNY Polytechnic Institute Interim President

SUNY State-Operated Campus Testing Plans*

Alfred:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year.

Brockport:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year.

“The Monroe County Public Health Department’s ongoing and very clear message to SUNY Brockport is that, at this time and for the foreseeable future, the Finger Lakes Region does not have the capacity to conduct regular testing of non-symptomatic individuals or testing of individuals as part of a “screening process.”

Buffalo State:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year.

“The current diagnostic testing protocol within New York State is still largely contingent on exposure to a COVID-positive person or having symptoms of COVID-19. We expect this guidance to change, and anticipate broader testing across the full campus population, to include serologic testing supplies and strategic vision. Currently our recommendation will follow the Erie County health recommendations for COVID-19 exposure and COVID-19 symptomatic persons.”

Canton:

No announced plans for surveillance testing of students or for baseline or surveillance testing of staff. Canton has announced pool testing of students on return to campus.

“To ensure every student is healthy before the beginning of the academic year, we will be enacting isolation and testing protocols:

- All on-campus students will be instructed to self-quarantine at their homes for at least seven days prior to coming to SUNY Canton.
- Upon returning, students will be expected to continue self-quarantining in their residence halls while awaiting results of their COVID test.
- The College will be group testing students for the COVID-19 virus by residence hall wings, or pods. Students who test negative will be released from quarantine
- Commuter students will also need to undergo testing either through their own health provider or through the pooled testing available on campus.
- Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 will be instructed to self-isolate.

After the initial screening period, students will be required to continue monitoring themselves for symptoms.”

Cobleskill:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year of either students or staff.

* Testing plans are as reflected in approved reopening plans posted on campus websites as of July 9, 2020.

SUNY State-Operated Campus Testing Plans*

Cortland:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year of either students or staff.

Delhi:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year of either students or staff.

Downstate Health Sciences University:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year of either students or staff.

Empire State:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year of either students or staff.

Empire has announced that the college will be operating 100% online this academic year and that telecommuting will be used extensively to maintain social distancing among staff.

Environmental Science and Forestry:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year of either students living off campus or staff. ESF has announced the following:

“We have developed a very strong relationship with Upstate Medical University and will be working in conjunction with them and Syracuse University for our screening and testing. We, along with Syracuse University, will be using a novel RNA testing approach in our dormitory to monitor whether the virus is present in the population. If the Covid RNA is found in the dorm’s wastewater, that would be the signal to begin more intensive group and individual testing of students in the dorm.”

Syracuse University has announced that it will be doing baseline testing of all students using pooled saliva testing at the beginning of the academic year followed by random surveillance testing and wastewater monitoring during the academic year.

Fredonia:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year of either students or staff.

Geneseo:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year of either students or staff, except as follows:

Students are asked to self-quarantine prior to returning to campus. Employees are encouraged to be tested before returning to on-campus work.

* Testing plans are as reflected in approved reopening plans posted on campus websites as of July 9, 2020.

SUNY State-Operated Campus Testing Plans*

Maritime:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year of either students or staff.

Morrisville:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year of either students or staff.

New Paltz:

New Paltz has announced that the college will not be conducting either baseline or surveillance testing of student or staff, except as follows:

“We do not plan to test students or employees before the academic year begins, with the exception of international students. We are screening all students and employees using a self-report system before they arrive on campus, and before anyone enters campus or class every day. Students and employees will be tested for cause, defined as experiencing a COVID-19 symptom(s), exposure to COVID-19, or international travel.”

Old Westbury:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year of either students or staff.

Oneonta:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year of either students or staff.

“We procured a wastewater/sewer testing system to monitor for COVID-19. If there are changes in baseline tests, then as feasible, we may randomly test students in impacted areas.”

Optometry:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year of either students or staff.

Oswego:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year of either students or staff.

Plattsburgh:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year of either students or staff.

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SUNY State-Operated Campus Testing Plans*

“The efficacy of regular, on-going testing of the entire population is questionable. The college is in regular conversations with infectious disease experts locally, our hospital, and health department officials who are in agreement with this. Accordingly, active case finding, meaning a more focused effort to find the disease before it gets rampant, is our priority. The process of active case finding may include regular temperature monitoring and the use of screening questions. The target will be on testing symptomatic student and at-risk cases, adopting a tracing system to facilitate rapid contact mapping of infected individuals and then aggressively testing all contacts and hotspots.”

Polytechnic Institute:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year of either students or staff.

“If resources permit, pooled testing will be provided to students and employees as groups, with about 25 people in each group (the group size may vary based on local infection rate at the time of campus re-opening).”

Potsdam:

SUNY Potsdam has not announced final testing plans. The campus’s posted reopening plan announced a range of possible options regarding testing of students. The plan does not address possible testing of staff:

“Based on the rapidly changing guidance from St. Lawrence County Public Health Department and Upstate Medical University, testing protocols are not finalized. However, below are some of the current options:

Before arrival (one of these options):

- Daily Electronic Screening Tool for 14 days prior to arrival to campus. Provide student training for use and at-risk students will be asked to have a diagnostic COVID-19 test and/or quarantine prior to arrival to campus.
- Social Distancing: Students will be asked to ‘self-quarantine’ 5-7 days prior to coming to campus. Those students who are symptomatic or at risk will report to SHS for a diagnostic (PCR) test and placed in quarantine until their results are back (1-3 days).
- Mailed Saliva test (PCR): each student will be mailed a saliva test and will mail that test back to Upstate (Syracuse) for processing. Students will be expected to self-quarantine for 5-7 day prior to administering themselves the saliva test (will receive video training) and take the test 2 days prior to coming to campus (Cost is ~\$25/student)

At Arrival: (one of these options)

- No testing upon arrival
- Test ‘at-risk’ students upon arrival according to their Daily Electronic Screening Tool.
- Student Health Services (SHS) completes testing for all students utilizing LabCorp as reference lab

* Testing plans are as reflected in approved reopening plans posted on campus websites as of July 9, 2020.

SUNY State-Operated Campus Testing Plans*

- LabCorp Mass Testing

After Arrival: (one of these options)

- Students will continue with self-monitoring and call Student Health Services if they screen positive for direction.
- Diagnostic testing availability throughout the semester as per LabCorp communication.
- Pooled Sampling at intervals.”

“SUNY Potsdam is currently working with Upstate Medical University on potential options and recommendations for testing. In addition, the Associated Colleges of St. Lawrence Valley is coordinating efforts with the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department, St. Lawrence Health System and Claxton Hepburn Hospital, and the North Country Region Control Room.”

“The St. Lawrence County Public Health Department, St. Lawrence Board of Health, and St. Lawrence Health System will be providing ACSLV with testing protocols, contact tracing recommendations, and best practices that will be consistent for all of the campuses. Their current recommendations include testing of all students one week before arrival, and twice more after arrival.”

Purchase:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year of either students or staff.

“Per the current guidance, the college does not plan to test students or employees before and/or during the semester unless symptoms are present.”

University at Albany:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year of either students or staff, except for the following:

“The University will employ widespread testing to identify COVID-19 positive students, faculty and staff, and contain the spread of the virus.”

University at Binghamton:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year of either students or staff, except for the following:

“The University is currently developing a testing protocol for when students arrive to move into their residence halls and it will be communicated when it is finalized.”

“As the University continues to develop its testing protocol, it is expected that, after the initial screening upon a student’s arrival to move into a residence hall, surveillance testing (testing of people selected from the overall student population on campus) or diagnostic testing (testing of those who are exhibiting symptoms) may be put into place. However, it is currently difficult to predict what our final testing protocol would be, dependent upon testing supplies and other necessary resources.”

* Testing plans are as reflected in approved reopening plans posted on campus websites as of July 9, 2020.

SUNY State-Operated Campus Testing Plans*

University at Buffalo:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year of either students or staff.

Upstate Medical University:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year of either students or staff, except for the following:

“Many have asked about the impact of the governor's executive order for quarantining individuals returning from states with high rates (>10% positive) of COVID infection on the return of students to the clinical setting and to classrooms....We have determined that there are very few students returning from these states. Upstate leadership considers students in the health professions, medicine, and nursing to be essential members of our health care teams who are training to enter the work force, and recommends the following evidence-based approach:

- Students returning from the above states should self-quarantine for 7 days upon return.
- At the end of 7 days, students should undergo COVID PCR testing at 800 Water St.
- If negative, students may enter classes or clinical settings as scheduled.
- If positive, they will undergo evaluation by Employee/Student Health.”

Stony Brook University:

No announced plans for baseline testing at the beginning of the academic year or ongoing surveillance testing during the academic year of either students or staff, except for the following:

“As we continue to receive new information on testing availability and regional spread, we will be updating our testing plans. We intend to have a finalized outline for testing requirement by August 1. Students who plan to return to campus in the fall may be required to take a COVID-19 test and self-quarantine during the 14 days prior to returning to campus.”

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NYS Private Colleges with Announced Testing Requirements*

University of Rochester

Beginning of semester - U of R plans a staggered arrival of students to allow testing on arrival using the U of R. Medical Center lab to conduct COVID-19 RT-PCR viral test and other labs if necessary. Students traveling to campus from nearby regional locations that are within one-day's drive of campus will be encouraged to be tested in their home communities up to five days prior to traveling to campus. Those students whose travel is more than one day, or who are traveling by air, will be tested upon arrival in Rochester. Testing priority will be for students in doubles and students arriving via air from domestic "hot-spots" or international locations, and student move-in to doubles will be spaced out to ensure we have a negative result back from the both students before moving the second student into the shared room.

During the semester - Daily symptom monitoring of all students and staff with testing for all symptomatic students and staff.

Colgate University

Beginning of semester – The arrival of students is one of the riskier moments in the semester. To reduce these risks, students will be asked to be tested for SARS-CoV-2 and submit proof of a negative test prior to arrival. SARS-CoV-2-positive and symptomatic students will not be permitted to come to campus until they are cleared under CDC guidelines. All students will then be tested upon arrival, and again 7-10 days post-arrival, to, among other things, help minimize the risk of false negative results leading to transmission within the population.

During the semester - Colgate will develop a robust, multi-pronged approach to test students, faculty and staff as they return to campus, two weeks after return to campus, and engage in continuous targeted surveillance throughout the school year. Colgate has acquired a Cepheid High Sensitivity Rapid qPCR diagnostic testing machine to facilitate on campus testing.

Hamilton College

Beginning of semester – Testing is key to minimizing the spread of COVID-19 in our community. All students will be required to have a diagnostic molecular (PCR) test completed one week prior to their scheduled arrival on campus, if possible. We are currently working out a plan to support those students who have difficulty securing such a test.

"Students will also be tested upon arrival and quarantined until we receive the results of that test. If a student tests positive, we will move the student to isolation, initiate contact tracing, and quarantine any on-campus contacts. Students will also be tested periodically after arrival, on a schedule still to be worked out.

During semester - Daily symptom monitoring of all students and staff with testing for all symptomatic students and staff

Syracuse University

Beginning of semester - All students will be tested when they return to campus and again two weeks after their return to campus. Syracuse University will use pooled saliva testing for this

* Testing plans are as reflected in approved reopening plans posted on campus websites as of July 8, 2020.

NYS Private Colleges with Announced Testing Requirements*

purpose, with subsequent rapid testing of all individuals in a pooled sample that indicates a positive result. Testing of symptomatic students will be performed by health professionals from the Barnes Center at The Arch (under the supervision of Syracuse University's medical director) and in partnership with outside laboratories. More specific details about how these tests will be administered will be shared prior to our students' return to campus.

During the semester - We will implement two primary approaches for ongoing monitoring, including random testing and a wastewater surveillance program developed by public health faculty from Falk College. The wastewater surveillance program allows us to monitor for the potential of asymptomatic cases in our residence halls, athletic facilities, etc. and subsequently initiate individual testing of residents in response to virus detected in the wastewater originating from a given complex.

St. Lawrence University:

Students will be asked to sign a **Social Contract Code of Conduct** in the interests of public health and safety before returning. It will include consent to be tested for COVID-19 upon arrival on campus and about two weeks later, as well as other times throughout the semester. There will be procedures for testing, tracing, and isolation that follow NYS best practices. These are currently in the process of development and will be announced when everything is set in place.

Cornell University

A robust virus screening program will be critical to controlling the spread of COVID-19 in our community. More details around this testing program will be provided over the coming weeks, but the protocol will include screening prior to and upon arrival to campus, and ongoing, frequent screening, with isolation/quarantine/contact tracing as needed. Our goal will be to identify infected individuals and quickly isolate them and those with whom they had close contact. Compliance with the testing program will be an absolute requirement for all students, whether living in on-campus housing or in the local Ithaca community.

Union College

Union's testing plan will include initial and surveillance testing, not just diagnostic. We are working with various vendors, including the Broad Institute, as we finalize plans.

Beginning of semester - All students and employees will be screened and tested for the Sars-Cov-2 virus upon arrival and as they return to work. Faculty and staff already working on campus will also be tested at this time.

During the semester - Students will be tested weekly. Staff and faculty will be tested at regular intervals during the term. Student-facing staff will be tested more frequently throughout the term.

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

All members of the community be tested upon return, and on a recurrent basis (at least every two weeks, and more frequently as warranted). Rensselaer will create sufficient capacity for periodic COVID-19 testing of students and employees. This will be done using RT-qPCR testing

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NYS Private Colleges with Announced Testing Requirements*

through contractual arrangements with licensed laboratories and point-of-care antigen testing through the Rensselaer Health Services Center. The Institute will monitor the number of positive test results over each two-week testing period and determine whether there is a statistical increase in numbers from one period to another.

Vassar College:

Beginning of semester - Students must have a coronavirus test (taken three to five days *before* you arrive. Students will be required to have evidence of a negative test result either submitted ahead of time or presented at the time of move-in. If this is a hardship a suitable alternative will be found, including a possible test on campus.

During semester - All students will also be tested on campus within the first days of move-in and tested again several days later. The College is working on a plan for subsequent, periodic asymptomatic testing to take place throughout the semester.

Bard College:

Students will be required to have a coronavirus test taken within five days before traveling to Bard. If it is positive, you must stay home until you have tested negative. If testing is not available in your area or you otherwise have difficulty accessing a test, please be in touch with Bard Health Services and they will advise you on safely returning to campus. All students can also be expected to be tested soon after arrival on campus. More information about testing protocols for students will be shared in the next update.

Sarah Lawrence College:

Beginning of semester: The College will follow current New York State recommendations that any student who will be on campus in the fall must have a negative PCR test within 14 days prior to arrival on campus; students will be retested on campus within two weeks of arrival. Further details will be shared this summer.

During the semester: The Health & Wellness Center will have COVID-19 testing capabilities for students through point of care testing and off-site laboratories. Testing protocols will be in accordance with CDC health guidelines, and symptomatic students will be tested. Charges for on-site point of care testing will be billed to the student's bursar account. COVID-19 tests sent to an off-site laboratory will be billed to the student's insurance. Coverage and payment will be determined by the student's insurance policy.

Columbia University:

All faculty, staff, and students returning to campus on or after June 22 are expected to have a COVID-19 PCR test through Columbia/NYP within 14 days of return. All employees working on campus prior to June 22 are also eligible to, but not required to receive a test. Appointments can be Tests will be billed to insurance. If someone does not have insurance, they will be instructed to provide any bills to CU for reimbursement. There will be no out-of-pocket cost to the individual. This process will be re-evaluated after one month and adjusted as needed.

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NYS Private Colleges with Announced Testing Requirements*

New York University:

We are working to finalize the details of our testing program, including resolving issues involving testing availability and locations, and alignment with the latest public health guidance. Additional details will be available later in the summer. Our testing strategy will involve multiple components:

- Asking members of the community to get themselves tested prior to reconvening on campus.
- A testing protocol for those returning to campus, in line with recommendations of medical experts and established best practices.
- Testing when a member of the community has COVID-like symptoms or has been exposed to someone infected with COVID-19.
- An ongoing testing program of representative segments of the NYU community for the purpose of general disease surveillance.

* Testing plans are as reflected in approved reopening plans posted on campus websites as of July 8, 2020.