

Addendum to Southern CT State University's Reopening Plans for Colleges and Universities in Phase 3 (Spring 2021 UPDATE)

The following content will serve as an addendum to Southern CT State University's "Reopening Plans for Colleges and Universities in Phase 3".

Intended date of arrival of the first students: January 23rd, 2021

Intended date of classes starting:

January 26th, 2021 – **Online** - (All Services will be on-line during this time)

February 1st, 2021 – **On-Ground** (Services will return to a blend of in-person and on-line)

Intended duration of the spring semester: 15 Weeks

As of **1/8/2021**, SCSU will continue to apply the latest DPH guidance for COVID Safety protocols for all constituents on campus. The following sections of SCSU's Re-Open Plan have received minor updates and will be updated as more DPH guidance is shared within the CSU community.

PART 1 - PLAN FOR REPOPULATING THE CAMPUS (the re-entry of students)

With planning underway for a return to campuses for the Spring 2021 semester, some of the specific recommendations concerning mitigation strategies and other guidance have been revised by the CT Dept. of Health (DPH) related to cleaning and disinfection procedures for campus reopening for the Spring semester. ***Southern CT State University will follow all guidelines, as outlined by the CT DPH as received on 1/8/2021.***

Test and quarantine all residential students prior to fully opening the SCSU campus.

- Residential students should receive a negative PCR test **within the 7 days prior** to their "move-in" date.
- Residential students should receive an antigen or PCR test upon **arrival on campus (Day 0) and entry into quarantine.**
- Residential students should observe their entire quarantine period in residence on campus (i.e. in the dormitory where movements can be controlled) rather than at their permanent home residence or elsewhere
- Residential students should receive a **PCR test at Day 7 of quarantine or later.**
- Non-residential students are advised to severely limit their interactions with individuals outside of their household (including with the surrounding community) prior to the beginning of the academic semester.
- Per the CDC and DPH, an individual's ability to end quarantine before 14 days is conditioned on their ability to continue with daily COVID-19 symptom screening, continuous mask use when outside of the home, as well as avoiding gatherings with people who are not in their immediate household, who are over 65 years old, or who have medical conditions that place them at increased risk for COVID-19.

Cleaning and Disinfection

Consistent and proper cleaning and targeted disinfection of surfaces is just one part of a system of procedures that will safeguard the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff during the upcoming Spring semester. As we have learned more about the virus and how it spreads over the past several months, it has become more evident that contaminated surfaces are not likely to be a very effective mode of transmission for SARS-CoV-2. The virus has shown the ability to survive for 24 hours or more on surfaces (depending on the surface materials and environmental conditions); however, the risk of enough virus being deposited on a surface and surviving for a long enough period to allow another individual to take up the virus and expose themselves to a sufficiently infectious dose appears exceedingly small, at least in comparison to the most common route of direct respiratory droplet transmission between individuals. As such, careful attention to proper routine cleaning schedules and procedures, coupled with appropriate spot disinfection of high-touch areas and good hand hygiene, is sufficient to protect the spread of COVID-19 via surfaces.

Based on the relatively low risk of surface transmission, the following updated recommendations will be implemented at Southern CT State University for Spring 2021.

Fall 2020 Guidance	Updated Spring 2021 Guidance
Hand sanitizer available at entrances to all buildings, classrooms, and dining halls.	Hand sanitizer stations should be made available in common areas of buildings to the extent possible.
Disposable wipes available in all bathrooms, classrooms, and other shared facilities (e.g. copy machines, coffee stations, etc.) for wiping down surfaces touched before and after every use.	Disposable wipes, spray bottles, or other cleaning products or disinfection are not needed for general use in shared areas. Shared areas and equipment should be included in a cleaning and disinfection plan. Good hand hygiene (frequent hand washing with soap/water or alcohol-based sanitizer) should be encouraged after use of shared equipment and common areas.
Frequent hand-washing and frequent deep cleaning of bathrooms and other high touch areas	Routine cleaning and spot disinfection of bathrooms and high touch areas at least twice daily is recommended, as is continued good hand hygiene.

<p>Disinfectant wipes should be placed near sinks, shower stalls and toilets in residence halls. Users should wipe sinks/toilets/showers/soap dispensers following use.</p>	<p>Disposable wipes, spray bottles, or other cleaning or disinfection products are not needed for general use in shared bathrooms. Shared bathrooms should be included in a cleaning and disinfection plan. Good hand hygiene (frequent hand washing with soap/water or alcohol-based sanitizer) should be encouraged after use of shared bathrooms.</p>
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Southern CT State University will have in place written standard protocols and procedures for the cleaning and disinfection of surfaces within each campus building, and visibility in the implementation of those procedures will help to alleviate some of the fear that students, faculty, and staff may be feeling about entering campus buildings. **Facility Operations will:**

1. **Perform routine cleaning in all buildings prior to the start of the semester.** Any areas inside buildings that have been unoccupied for seven (7) or more days need only routine cleaning, not disinfection. The virus that causes COVID-19 cannot survive outside of the body for long periods and after seven (7) days, no viable virus is likely to have survived on any type of surface, even under ideal conditions.
2. **Review Written Plans.** Review the cleaning and disinfecting plan for each campus building in light of the experience during the Fall semester. Reaffirm what areas need cleaning, what areas need cleaning and disinfection, the appropriate schedule for cleaning and disinfection, what cleaning and disinfection products are needed, what personal protective equipment (PPE) is needed, and the person responsible for the cleaning and disinfection.
3. For each campus building, consider which areas need only cleaning and which need cleaning, followed by disinfection.
 - Areas needing only routine cleaning include:
 - Outdoor areas such as benches, tables, and railings. Do not spray disinfectants on these surfaces, as it is a waste of disinfection products, unnecessarily exposes individuals to potentially harmful disinfectant products, and is not shown to provide any additional protection above routine cleaning alone. Cleaning of wooden surfaces outdoors is not recommended.
 - Areas or items located indoors that are not routinely touched with the hands or used frequently by many different individuals, such as desks, floors, walls, windows, carpeting, light fixtures, and air vents.
 - Areas needing cleaning, followed by disinfection include:
 - “High-touch areas”, which refers to hard surfaces indoors that are routinely touched by the hands of different individuals. Examples may include (but not limited to) doorknobs, bathroom surfaces, shared equipment, locker rooms (benches, showers, and toileting areas), and hand rails.

- Porous materials are not as easy to disinfect as hard surfaces, so it is recommended that porous surfaces that may be contacted by many different individuals throughout the day but are not easily cleaned (such as cloth-upholstered chairs) be removed from shared use areas.

4. Review schedules for cleaning and disinfection.

- Daily
 - Routine cleaning of all areas of buildings that have been used on a given day.
 - Cleaning and disinfection of “high-touch” areas that you have targeted in your plan.
- Twice Daily (or more)
 - Plan to fully clean and disinfect bathroom surfaces twice per day, especially during times of potential heavy use (e.g. weekdays during usual class hours) and in high-traffic bathrooms that are in areas where they are more commonly used.

5. Ensure a sufficient supply of appropriate cleaning and disinfection products for your facilities.

- Cleaning Products:
 - Detergent products (soap) and water are recommended for surface cleaning and are very effective at removing the virus that causes COVID-19 from surfaces.
 - Instead of soap and water, commercially prepared cleaning products may also be used.
- Disinfection Products:
 - Select products listed on the [Environmental Protection Agency’s List N](#). These products are approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19.
 - If you use an EPA List N Product stating that it is both a cleaner *and* disinfectant, you must use the product twice on surfaces that need both cleaning and disinfection. First, use the product to clean the surface. Let air dry then use product again, allowing it to remain on the surface for the contact time stated on the label.
 - Most products are for use on hard surfaces but there are a limited number of products approved for use on soft and porous surfaces.
 - Be sure to double-check products being sold that claim that they are on the EPA List N. EPA recently disseminated a [Compliance Advisory](#) related to fraudulent claims by product sellers about their ability to kill the virus that causes COVID-19.
 - The Connecticut Department of Public Health published a circular letter (#2020-48) strongly advising against the use “Foggers” (also known as misters or electrostatic sprayers) for dispensing disinfection products. The volume of disinfectant and small droplet size generally associated with these devices are potentially dangerous to the custodial staff responsible for disinfecting surfaces, as well as the other occupants of the building. Spraying or fogging of disinfectants in large quantities inside buildings may lead to increased adverse respiratory and dermal issues for occupants unnecessarily wastes disinfectant products, negatively impacts budgets, and does not replace the need for regular manual cleaning.

6. Ensure training of staff regarding how to use cleaning and disinfection products safely.

- Ensuring proper ventilation during cleaning and disinfecting will reduce exposure to the chemicals in these products.

- Custodial or other staff performing cleaning and disinfecting activities must receive appropriate training on how to properly use, store, label, transfer, and dilute (if appropriate) the specific products being used at each facility.
- Cleaning staff must be equipped with the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) recommended by the product manufacturer, which may include gloves, eye protection, respiratory protection, and other protective equipment. See the product label and SDS (Safety Data Sheet) for each product used to identify specific PPE recommendations.
- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions about how to apply disinfectant products, including dilution instructions (if product is not “ready to use”).
- In order to be effective at killing viruses, disinfectant products generally must be left on surfaces for the amount of time stated on the label (also known as the “contact time”).
- Allow disinfected surfaces to air dry. Do not use fans or other mechanical means to shorten product drying times.
- If custodial or other staff who will be assigned cleaning and disinfecting tasks have asthma or other underlying respiratory problems, they should be given safety data sheets for the products that the school intends to use and receive medical clearance from their health provider before using any industrial or commercially-available cleaning or disinfection products.

Additional resources:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>
- University of Washington, Safer Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting Strategies to Reduce and Prevent COVID-19 Transmission:
https://osha.washington.edu/sites/default/files/documents/FactSheet_Cleaning_Final_UWDEO_HS_0.pdf

No additional changes per DPH Guidance on Updates #3 and # 5

PART 2: Plan for Monitoring the Health of Students, Faculty, and Staff

Southern CT State University will increase testing protocols for students through the end of February 2021.

Due to the continuing high community rates of transmission in many of the communities SCSU plans to increase the cadence for testing of students to ensure that all residential students, as well as any traditional undergraduate students residing in off-campus housing who will be accessing campus to attend classes or otherwise, **are tested a minimum of once per week for January and February 2021.**

The intent would be for this weekly testing cadence to begin in the form of pre-arrival and in-quarantine testing as described above (Days -7, 0, and 7) and then continue until at least the end of February 2021. Ideally, weekly testing would be in the form of RT-PCR or other molecular testing, however antigen testing can be used for students living on campus (i.e. congregate settings), provided that:

- Test results (both positive and negative) will be reported to CT DPH in a prescribed electronic format at least weekly
- Positive antigen test results will be confirmed with a molecular test
- A weekly testing cadence will be maintained throughout at least the months of January and February 2021

Given that the ability of campus administrators to control the movements and interactions of off-campus students is admittedly limited in many situations, and if SCSU cannot provide congregate residential populations and traditional undergraduate students residing in off-campus housing with weekly testing, these students be restricted from attending classes or otherwise visiting campus in-person through February 2021.

- Any student with symptoms of potential COVID-19 infection WILL be evaluated and tested as soon as possible
- **100% of** residential students and residence hall directors will be tested weekly in each dorm using the RT-PCR COVID-19 test (least the months of January and February 2021). This will include random sampling of the population and targeted testing. The purpose is to identify person-to-person spread of the virus and guide the implementation of control measures throughout the semester. When pooling of samples for PCR testing is approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), this approach can be used to implement screenings.
- Students and staff who test positive must self-isolate until 10 days have passed with no symptoms from the date of the test. This 10-day period may be extended for those who develop symptoms according to CDC guidelines.
- Contacts of students and staff who test positive will be identified and tested using the RT-PCR COVID-19 test. If an asymptomatic contact tests negative during their 14-day quarantine period, this person should continue to observe quarantine for the full 14-days and self- monitor for symptoms.
- Contact tracing might result in the testing of all the students and staff in a residence hall.

PART 3: Plan for Containing Cases That Develop

QUARANTINE PROCEDURES

- A 7 to 10 day quarantine period will suffice; however, a 14-day containment and monitoring period is still required.
- This must be a **dorm-centric quarantine**, integrated into the testing protocol.
- **Grab & Go Nutrition will be the sole method for residential students.**

Local public health authorities determine and establish the quarantine options for their jurisdictions. CDC currently recommends a quarantine period of 14 days. However, based on local circumstances and resources, the following options to shorten quarantine are acceptable alternatives.

- The quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring.
 - With this strategy, residual post-quarantine transmission risk is estimated to be about 1%, with an upper limit of about 10%.
- *When diagnostic testing resources are sufficient and available (see bullet 3, below),* then quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen tests negative and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring. The specimen may be collected and tested within 48 hours before the time of planned quarantine discontinuation (e.g., in anticipation of testing delays), but quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than after Day 7.
 - With this strategy, the residual post-quarantine transmission risk is estimated to be about 5% with an upper limit of about 12%.

In both cases, additional criteria (e.g., continued symptom monitoring and masking through Day 14) must be met and are outlined in the full text.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-options-to-reduce-quarantine.html>

PART 4: Plan for a Shutdown

No additional changes for this section at this time.