

Northeastern University

City and Community Engagement

208 Hastings Hall at the YMCA
360 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
617.373.7666

Dear Joyce and Tom,

August 10, 2020

Please find attached a copy of Northeastern University's COVID-19 Higher Education Control Plan. As Northeastern plans for the reopening of its Boston campus, we continue to be guided by the central priority of our community's health and well-being. We are committed to delivering the highest-quality Northeastern experience for each of our students in a way that gives each student flexible options that serve their educational goals. This fall, we will be resuming instruction with a hybrid model called NUFlex, in which students will take their courses both remotely and in person.

The University's student survey from early July indicated that there approximately 17,000 students who planned to attend classes in Boston. Of that total, 8,006 are in university housing. 6,246 of these students will be living on campus, while 604, will live in Master Leased Properties, 303 students at the Midtown Hotel, and 853 students at the Westin Hotel. In acquiring the additional beds at both the Midtown and Westin Hotels, our priority was to secure beds in locations that were a short walking distance from campus to help limit the amount of time and distance that students would have to travel through and interact with the general public.

We are still trying to finalize the number of students who will commute from home and those who have rented private accommodation. The Office of Off Campus Housing and Support Services is currently surveying the students who have not committed to live on campus to determine whether they will live in the area and come onto campus – and be subject to Northeastern's screening, testing, and tracing protocols – or whether they will participate remotely for the fall semester. Northeastern University will provide this data as part of its University Accountability Report.



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All students, faculty, and staff returning to campus will be required to undergo viral testing regularly. All students will be notified by the University of state requirements that students entering Massachusetts from most other states must quarantine for 14 days. Northeastern University will require all students to be tested three times for the coronavirus in their first five days on campus this fall. Students will quarantine themselves while awaiting results. Students will be tested at the Cabot Physical Education Center as soon as they arrive and again three days later and two days later. The rules apply to all students coming to campus, regardless of where they're coming from or whether they're living off-campus or dormitories. After a third negative test, students will be able to attend classes in person and participate in other activities. Students who come to campus within five days of the start of classes will not be able to participate in classes until they have completed testing for the virus and will instead join online.

Concerning quarantine protocols, we will be following the state's and local health official guidance as public health guidelines evolve. The University's testing operation has undergone thorough review by public health authorities and received the necessary state and federal certifications. Below, I have further outlined the University's procedures concerning the return of students to Boston.

Arrival Procedures for Students

RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS

- All residential students, from exempt or non-exempt states, domestic or international, will be administered a COVID viral test immediately upon arrival. (Housing can provide the roster of students moving in each day for their Day 1 test) .
- The students will move into university housing and go immediately into quarantine. They are permitted to go out to pick up food, get testing or go seek



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medical care, but must otherwise stay in their room until they receive a negative result from the test. If they test positive, they will be moved immediately into wellness rooms for care.

- Once they receive a negative test result, their quarantine is lifted. They can be out on campus with masks but are still restricted from fully resuming campus activities.
- Every student will be tested on Days 1 (arrival), 3, and 5. Students will need to have three negative tests before attending class and fully resuming campus activities. Some students may miss their first days of class and have to start classes via NUFlex.

OFF CAMPUS STUDENTS

- All off-campus students, from exempt or non-exempt states, domestic or international, should arrange to be tested at the on-campus testing center on arrival. (They will need to request a test for their Day 1.)

Students will be responsible to follow state guidance and to quarantine in their off-campus housing until they receive a negative result from the test.

- Once they get a negative test result, their quarantine is lifted. They can be out on campus with masks but are still restricted from fully resuming campus activities.
- If they test positive, they will need to isolate in place or return to their home until they can be released from home isolation in accordance with public health guidelines.
 - Current CDC guidance (July 20, 2020) provides that:

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- **Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms** and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:
 - At least 10 days have passed since symptom onset **and**
 - At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
 - Other symptoms have improved.
 - For persons who **never develop symptoms**, isolation and other precautions can be discontinued 10 days after the date of their first positive RT-PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 RNA.
- Every student will be tested on Days 1 (arranged by the student), 3, and 5. Students will need to have three negative tests before attending class and fully resuming campus activities. Some students may miss their first days of class and have to start classes via NUFlex.

Testing:

All Northeastern students, both on campus residents and off campus residents, will be required to be tested every five days. We have developed a scheduling tool that will track and coordinate all

testing activities at our main collection site, and will notify students when their testing date is via our newly created Student Hub (accessible from their smart phone, computer, and tablet).

All faculty, staff, and vendors on the Boston campus will also be tested on a regular frequency.

The test we are conducting is a diagnostic test that indicates whether you are currently infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The test uses a frontal nasal swab, which involves minimal discomfort. Participants will swab their nostrils themselves, under the direction of a clinical administrator, using an anterior nares (frontal nasal) swab method. That is

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different—and more comfortable—than the [nasopharyngeal swab](#), which involves inserting an elongated swab deep into the nose to the upper part of the throat.

Results will be generated within 24 hours.

Northeastern has two collection sites. One for ongoing testing purposes which can accommodate up to 5000 - 8000 tests per day, and a symptomatic testing center for students which will accommodate testing for symptomatic students.

The symptomatic facility will more closely resemble a clinical testing facility, with personnel wearing full personal protective equipment. Also, although that experience will also involve the anterior nares swabbing method, it will be administered by a clinician.

Northeastern has built a Life Science Testing Center in Burlington, Massachusetts, which will be processing the testing samples along with support from a third party vendor.

Students who miss a scheduling testing will be prevented from attending in person classes until they reschedule, and have their test conducted. They will also be contacted by a health professional to check whether they are feeling ill.

We have staffed a dedicated team to operationalize both the LSTC and Collection Centers.

The link to our testing plan can be found here:

<https://news.northeastern.edu/coronavirus/reopening/frequently-asked-questions/#testing-plan>

We have reserved 550 wellness beds for residential students who test positive for COVID and need to isolate from the community.



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Daily Health Assessment:

All members of the Northeastern community will be required to complete an application based daily health assessment to proactively identify any symptoms which a member of our community may be experiencing that are related to COVID.

In the event, that a symptom is endorsed, the person will be directed to contact a provider for a telehealth visit to receive clinical advice. An incident report is created, and a case manager will also reach out to the student to determine next steps.

Move In:

Occurs from August 28th to September 8. In prior years, we have scheduled move in days over five days, but to allow for physical distancing, we increased the move in days to span 11 days.

Only students will be allowed in the residence halls. Parents will be asked to drop their student off outside the residence hall and depart.

Only one hamper per student will be allowed on move in day.

Miscellaneous

Masks are required to be worn in all classrooms, common areas, and dining halls.

We have invested in additional air purifiers to ensure we have the most up to date air safety protocols in place.

We have instituted additional cleaning cycles across our campus.



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We have redesigned common areas, dining halls, and classrooms to ensure social distancing guidelines are met.

We have created an online program called NUFlex, a learning program delivered synchronously online, should a student need to remain quarantined.

I have also attached the following supplementary documentation;

1. Revision to Northeastern University application for temporary space use in response to COVID-19 Health Emergency, July 28, 2020, submitted to Boston Planning and Development Agency.
2. 2020 Fall Move-in matrix, this is a timeline of the number of our students moving back onto campus and what building they are moving in.
3. A copy of the list sent to the Boston Transportation Department with requests to prohibit parking to keep traffic from building up in the surrounding neighborhoods of Fenway, Roxbury, and Mission Hill.
4. A copy of August 2020, Problem Property Task Force of Mission Hill.
5. A copy of July 29, 2020 message to community partners from John Tobin, Vice President of City and Community Engagement at Northeastern University, concerning the University's latest plans for reopening the Boston campus this fall.
6. A copy of the 08/04/2020 Neighborhood Edition of the Northeastern News includes links to NU testing and quarantine guidelines.
7. A copy of NU COVID-19 Campus Hygiene Protocol
8. A copy of NU Workplace Safety Protocols
9. A copy of Keeping Northeastern Clean and Safe
10. A copy July 26, 2020 "Your Questions About Northeastern's Coronavirus Testing, Answered."
11. A copy of the August 4, 2020, "Protect the Pack" article.
12. A copy of the NU Fall Move-In Off-Campus newsletter.

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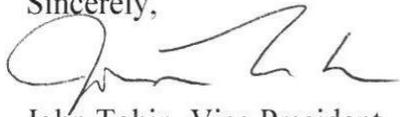
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This will help you further understand the many efforts we are undertaking in response to the unprecedented public health emergency.

Please contact me at j.tobin@northeastern.edu or 617-373-5810 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



John Tobin, Vice President

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