

Supplement September 25, 2020

A weekly newsletter with news and information for NCCC Students



Mandatory Pool Testing for COVID-19 at NCCC:

Dear Student:

We are excited to announce an additional tool in our fight against Covid-19. Utilizing the resources of SUNY, we have partnered with SUNY Upstate Medical University to perform Pool Saliva Surveillance Testing. This new tool will provide our campus community insight and visibility into the prevalence of Covid-19 on our campus. Surveillance testing will begin next week for students who attend courses or activities physically on campus. Some students will be selected randomly as they come through the screening process on campus and others will be contacted via email and given a specific time to report for the pooled testing.

Here are some things you should know before you come to campus:

1. Students who come to campus for classes and activities may be selected randomly to participate in the Pooled Testing. Participation is **mandatory**. We are required by SUNY to test 50% of our on campus population. Refusal to participate in the random pooled testing may result in your suspension from campus.
2. Students should set up a Surveillance Account through the <http://register.suny-covid.com> application as soon as possible. Completing the registration will cut down on the time it takes to participate in the testing process.
3. When filling out the information, you will be requested to enter insurance information. Though the college will cover the cost of testing, we want to obtain this information, so should this be a billable encounter; we can offset costs where possible. If you do not have insurance, you may answer "NA".

What to expect if you are chosen to test:

1. We have provided a video that demonstrates how the test will be conducted. <https://vimeo.com/447268833/5229da41b6> (Saliva test demonstration video).
2. The testing location will be the Art Gallery location adjacent to the Learning Commons.
3. Anyone being tested must bring their (i) campus ID and (ii) personal electronic device (cell phone or tablet).
4. Students should not eat or drink anything, including chewing gum, mints or lozenges, within 30 minutes of reporting to the collection site, and should not have brushed their teeth or used mouthwash within the past three hours. In addition, test subjects must abstain from smoking, vaping, or using smokeless tobacco products for 30 minutes prior to the test. We will provide a window of time for those randomly selected, to come back and conduct their test, should any of the above criteria not be met at time of random selection.
5. If participating in the random pooled testing prevents you from arriving to class on time, you will be given documentation to present to your instructor that explains your tardiness.

I appreciate your efforts in advance of this critical component of our overall strategy with respect to COVID-19.

Julia D. Pitman, Vice President for Student Services