

William Paterson University

Re-Opening Plan

Screening, Testing and Contact Tracing

Institutions of Higher Education (IHE), working together with local health departments, have an important role in slowing the spread of diseases, and protecting vulnerable students, staff, and faculty to help ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. The Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) has issued standards for institutions of higher education as they begin restarting campus operations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in New Jersey, until a proven vaccine or approved therapy for COVID-19 is widely available.

While there will be some level of risk as operations resume for reopening New Jersey's universities and colleges, state guidelines have been created to help mitigate those risks and safeguard our campus, employees, students, and student-athletes.

Testing Employees

William Paterson University **requires** that all employees notify Human Resources if they are exposed to, or are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

- All employees exposed to, or symptomatic for, COVID-19 will be referred to their primary care provider (PCP) to get tested, and will inform HR of their test results.
- All apparently symptomatic or exposed employees will be sent home and advised to self-quarantine, until results are obtained. *A recommendation to quarantine* means you are not known to be sick, but may have been exposed or could be getting sick.*

Negative Results:

If the test is negative and the employee is **asymptomatic**, that employee can resume work with use of social distancing guidelines, hand hygiene, and face coverings while in the presence of others.

Positive Results:

If the employee tested positive, and/or is experiencing symptoms, that employee will be directed to remain out of the workplace and advised that they remain in self-isolation until:

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and** improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and**,
- At least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*

A recommendation for isolation means you tested positive for COVID-19 or are presumed positive with symptoms of the virus.*

Alternately, the university may use a test-based strategy for keeping an employee home. If the test-based strategy is used the employee will be excluded from work until:

- Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), **and**

- Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens)

All employees who are **asymptomatic** but test positive for COVID-19 will be advised to self-isolate and not be allowed on campus until

- 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test. If they develop symptoms, then the *symptom-based* or *test-based strategy* should be used.

OR

- Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens)

Testing Students

William Paterson University requires that all students notify the Counseling Health and Wellness Center if they are exposed to, or are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Students can call the health center or go to the student portal for an appointment. Prior screening via telehealth is required before entering the center.

If it is deemed necessary, students will be offered a test. They can be referred to local testing centers or will be given a campus obtained test. This will be coordinated through the Counseling, Health and Wellness Center.

All suspected or exposed students will be recommended to self-quarantine, until results are obtained. *A recommendation to quarantine means you are not known to be sick, but may have been exposed.*

Negative Results:

If the test is negative and the student is asymptomatic, they can resume classes with use of social distancing guidelines, hand hygiene, and face coverings while in the presence of others.

Positive Results:

If the student tested positive, and/or is experiencing symptoms, they will be not be permitted to attend in-person classes¹ until:

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- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and** improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and**,
- At least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*.

A recommendation for isolation means you tested positive for COVID-19 or are presumed positive with symptoms of the virus.

¹ It is recommended that residential students go home to self-isolate. A student unable to go home will be moved to one of the designated quarantine/isolation rooms during this time.

Alternately, the university can use a test-based strategy for keeping a student off campus. If the test-based strategy is used the student will be excluded from campus until

- Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), **and**
- Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens)

Asymptomatic and Positive Results:

Any students who are asymptomatic but test positive for COVID-19 will not be allowed on campus² until:

- 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test. If they develop symptoms, then the *symptom-based* or *test-based strategy* will be used.

Alternatively, the University may use a test-based strategy for keeping asymptomatic but positive students off campus. If the test-based strategy is used the student will not be permitted to return to campus until

- Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens)

Testing Protocol for Special Populations:

- All students will be required to be tested for COVID-19 prior to clinical placement. Each academic department will be responsible for keeping a log of results. All positive results will be forwarded to the Counseling, Health and Wellness Center, and the student will be counseled and treated as deemed necessary. All positive results will follow the guidelines explained above.
- All athletes and coaches will be required to be tested for COVID-19 one week prior to returning to campus. All results will be sent in via the portal or email to the athletic trainer, and a log will be kept in the K drive. Once on campus, random surveillance testing will be done depending on risk level of sports and consistent with state and federal guidance. The CDC has identified low contact risk (bowling, cross country, diving, golf, gymnastics, rifle, skiing, swimming and diving, tennis and track and field); medium contact risk (e.g., baseball, softball); and high contact risk (e.g., basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, rowing, soccer, volleyball, water polo, and wrestling).
- Random testing may take place for residential students and/or student-athletes if deemed necessary.
- Any student that requests a test will be offered a referral or a test via Counseling, Health and Wellness Center, if available.
- All students that are either exposed or exhibiting symptoms will be tested.

Daily Health Screenings

² It is recommended that residential students go home to self-isolate. A student unable to go home will be moved to one of the designated quarantine/isolation rooms during this time.

All members of the WP Community are required to participate in daily self-administered health screenings and temperature taking (see WP Symptom Surveillance Health Screenings Policy). If someone reports symptoms or a fever over 100 degrees Fahrenheit they will be referred for testing. This health screening will be a web-based form and will be required prior to arriving on campus, leaving their residence hall room each day, attending any athletic or campus sponsored activity, arriving to any clinical or teaching placement, or any internship program or participating in any other WP activity or gathering.

All positive health screenings or temperatures over 100 degrees Fahrenheit will be forwarded to Human Resources (employees) or Counseling, Health and Wellness Center (students). All information will be kept confidential in adherence to Federal and State HIPAA guidelines.

Contact Tracing

WP will continue to partner with public health officials to support contact tracing. Contact tracing is part of a comprehensive strategy being developed and enacted by the state Department of Health. William Paterson University is fortunate to have established a relationship with local health departments. Prompt and accurate contact tracing will help to mitigate spread of COVID-19. All positive COVID-19 community members must cooperate with contact tracing. All employees and students that test positive will be asked to fill out a contact tracing form to be submitted to local health officials to help to expedite contact tracing (See Appendix). Rapid and accurate contract tracing is essential in mitigating exposure and risk to the entire WP community.

*Definitions:

- **Isolation** separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.
- **Quarantine** separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. (<https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/index.html>)

References:

<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200427b.shtml>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html#substantial>

<http://www.ncaa.org/sport-science-institute/resocialization-collegiate-sport-action-plan-considerations>

Appendix

WP Contact Tracing Tool for Positive Covid-19 Cases

This form is intended to assist you in the event that you have been diagnosed with COVID 19. We ask that you fill this form out and provide it to local health officials that will be conducting contact tracing. This may include local health officials or the Counseling, Health and Wellness Center. The Counseling, Health and Wellness Center may be requested to assist local health officials with contact tracing in order to expedite tracing and to reduce the risk of transmission to the community.

If you test positive for COVID-19, you will get a call from a public health representative to identify any contacts you have had. This form can help you identify your contacts so you will be ready for the call.

STEP 1:

1. Identify date of first symptoms _____

*If you have had symptoms, put the date you first felt sick

OR

If you have had no symptoms then put your date of testing ____/____/____

SUBTRACT 2 DAYS (from the date above): ____/____/____ = YOUR CONTACT TRACING DATE

STEP 2:

CONTACTS:

Who has been in your house/room (residential students) with you since your contact tracing date?

Include people who live in your home, resident halls room or suite and people who may have visited like friends, a babysitter or anyone else providing in-home services.

Name of Person	Date last in home	Their Phone Number

Step 3:

Make a list of what you did each day since your contact tracing date with as much detail as possible. Include things like hanging out with neighbors, going to work, running errands, appointments, social or recreational activities outside the house, and if you used public transportation to get there. Use another piece of paper if needed.

People you were with

Day One: ____ / ____ / ____

Activity	Location	Name	Address	Phone Number

Day Two: ____ / ____ / ____

Activity	Location	Name	Address	Phone Number

Day Three: ____ / ____ / ____

Activity	Location	Name	Address	Phone Number

Day Four: ____ / ____ / ____

Activity	Location	Name	Address	Phone Number

Day Five: ____ / ____ / ____

Activity	Location	Name	Address	Phone Number