



What Students Should Know: COVID-19 and Returning to Campus

As we return to campus for the Spring Semester 2021, Monroe Community College's first priority is the health and safety of our campus community, including our students, faculty, and staff. The best way to maintain the safest environment possible throughout 2021 and beyond is for each of us to take steps to minimize the risks, not only for ourselves, but for all members of the SUNY community. This includes:

- wearing face coverings (masks)
- hand washing
- social distancing
- participating in testing and contact tracing
- completing daily screenings
- being mindful of our surroundings and the impact we have

Any of us alone can spread this disease and cause harm to others. But **all of us together can build a community that is safe and healthy**, where educational success is possible.

Here's what you need to know and do as SUNY and MCC welcome students back to campus in 2021:

Stay Informed

Check your MCC email frequently, follow us on social media, visit the [MCC Updates & Resources](#) web pages for the latest information, and contact us at covid19response@monroec.edu with your questions. Information is also shared in the [MCC Student Tribune](#) (daily e-newsletter for students) and via the college's social media channels.

Academic Calendar

MCC's spring semester will run Jan. 25-May 15, 2021 with limited in-person courses. Approximately 23% of spring semester courses will be conducted in person. Instruction will continue without scheduled, weeklong winter and spring breaks; the academic term will be two weeks shorter. The final exam period will begin on May 10; final grades will be due by noon May 18.

Housing and Residence Life

On-campus housing will be offered beginning in January for students taking intersession classes and throughout the spring semester for registered students. Student-residents will receive specific instructions on required COVID-19 testing and scheduled arrival dates and times from the MCC Association's Office of Housing and Residence Life. Student-residents must take a COVID-19 test 10-14 days prior to moving on campus, bring test results with them to campus and plan to quarantine in their assigned room/suite until they can produce a negative COVID-19 test result.

Return to Campus Safely – Testing and Isolation Requirements

If you plan to live on campus, take an in-person course or lab, or come to any MCC location for services or to work, **you must participate in mandatory pooled (saliva) testing on Monday, Jan. 25 or Tuesday, Jan. 26. If you choose to be tested by another provider*, you must send proof of a negative test to studentrights@monroec.edu by Friday, Jan. 29.**

If your test results come back positive for COVID-19, you will need to undergo quarantine or isolation (at home or on campus) and should immediately contact MCC Health Services at (585) 292-2018 or healthsvc@monroecc.edu. Your name and personal information will remain confidential.

MCC has reserved Tribune Hall, a residence hall on the Brighton Campus, for student-residents who need to quarantine and isolate. Tribune Hall has 127 private bedrooms (33 suites) available for this purpose. The Office of Housing and Residence Life provides personal protective equipment (PPE), food, and supplies to student-residents who are in isolation or quarantine. MCC does not provide quarantine or isolation arrangements for commuter or off-campus students. MCC also has a memo of understanding with the Monroe County Department of Public Health (MCDOPH) which clearly outlines the roles and responsibilities of both parties.

Following the completion of mandatory isolation and quarantine, you must request a release letter from the MCDOPH and provide it to MCC Health Services in order to come to campus. The MCDOPH sends release letters via email.

Students who violate health protocols and quarantine or isolation orders are subject to conduct charges through the [Monroe Community College Student Code of Conduct](#) and sanctions as outlined in the [SUNY Sanctions in Response to COVID-19 Violations](#).

** PCR tests are conducted for free at the New York State Department of Health drive-through COVID-19 testing site on the Brighton Campus.*

Get Screened Daily

Prior to coming to campus, you are also required to complete a daily [COVID-19 self-assessment](#) and follow precautionary and mandatory quarantine directives. You are encouraged to complete the screening online or via the MCC mobile app.

Each MCC campus or site has only one authorized entrance checkpoint through which to access MCC buildings. Only individuals who complete the self-assessment, scan in with an MCC ID, and wear face covering will be allowed to enter. The Brighton Campus entrance is located at the first (ground) floor of the Spina Administration Building.

Get Tested Regularly

Weekly pooled testing sessions help MCC more quickly contain outbreaks before they happen on campus. You must test negative for COVID-19 at least every two weeks to continue coming to campus. You will not be charged for the tests.

[Pooled testing](#) is a saliva test you conduct yourself by swabbing your mouth. The test itself takes approximately 15 minutes. A link to the registration app and steps to help you prepare for the test are available [online](#). Please register on the SUNY Upstate Medical University website at least two-days prior to your scheduled test. Contact MCC at covid19@monroecc.edu if you have questions.

Pooled testing is offered in the Warshof Conference Center, R. Thomas Flynn Campus Center (Monroe A/B) on the Brighton Campus. You will be notified of your next test date and timeframe via your MCC email and text (if applicable). Dates will also be listed on the [pooled testing web page](#), on the college's events calendar and in the *MCC Student Tribune*.

As part of the testing process, your saliva sample will be pooled with 11 other samples and be sent to SUNY Upstate Medical University for screening. If you do not receive a call within 36 hours of being tested, your results are negative. Only those who test positive are called immediately.

If the results are positive, you and the other students in your group will have to undergo a precautionary quarantine (at home or in Tribune Hall if you are a student-resident). Positive test results are confirmed by the Monroe County Department of Public Health. The precautionary quarantine will last approximately 48-72 hours

until individual tests are processed. Your professors will work with you so that you're able to keep up with your studies.

Following the completion of mandatory isolation and quarantine, you must request a release letter from the MCDOPH and provide it to MCC Health Services in order to come to campus. The MCDOPH sends release letters via email.

Check the SUNY COVID-19 Case Tracker

SUNY maintains a comprehensive dashboard of COVID-19 testing and infection rate status across the system and at each campus, including MCC. [SUNY COVID-19 Case Tracker](#).

Be Responsible – It's Easy to Do Your Part

Each of us can take small steps to protect ourselves and the campus community. Because COVID-19 is highly contagious, these simple measures apply **both on and off campus**:

- **Wear face coverings** (masks) at all times on campus, including in classrooms/labs, conference rooms and other public spaces, even when you are able to maintain six feet of social distancing.
 - Exceptions to this requirement include when you are (1) alone in your enclosed private residential or personal space, (2) consuming food or beverage on-campus while seated and socially distanced in a designated location, and (3) outdoors and socially distant. Updated protocols are available on the [MCC Updates & Resources web pages](#).
 - Faculty and staff are likewise exempt when alone in their office or other private spaces.
- **Regularly wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and use hand sanitizer where soap and water are not available.
- **Stay home when you are sick** or have potentially been exposed to COVID-19.
- **Practice social distancing** at all times to reduce transmission.
- **Regularly participate in COVID-19 pooled testing** and complete daily self-assessments.
- **Do not bring guests to campus.** Guests are not allowed to enter campus buildings and must wait outside authorized campus entrance points.

If Exposed, Complete Mandatory Quarantine and Isolation

If you test positive for COVID-19, have been exposed to individuals who tested positive for COVID-19, or are informed by a state or local health department, medical professional or MCC Health Services representative that you are “at risk” for having COVID-19, you may be required to quarantine or isolate. This may include taking classes remotely, staying in a specific on-campus residence hall and room, and not going to other campus facilities for a specific timeframe. If you are a student-resident quarantining or isolating on campus, you will be assisted by assigned MCC Health Services registered nurses and receive access to food, medicine and supplies. Mental health, wellness, academic and/or other supports will also be available as needed.

Follow the Rules or Face Disciplinary Action

If MCC learns that you potentially violated COVID-19 health and safety rules (not wearing masks, mandatory testing, quarantine, etc.), you may lose access to campus facilities and/or campus housing and face other disciplinary actions. Student conduct is governed by MCC's [Code of Conduct](#) and [SUNY mandates](#). Minimum sanctions are outlined in the [Uniform Sanctioning in Response to COVID-19 Student Violations](#). Consistent with SUNY policy, if you are partially or completely removed from MCC due to a violation, you will not be eligible for refunds.

If you miss at least two scheduled pooled COVID-19 testing requirements, without sufficient excuse, or fail to obtain diagnostic or surveillance COVID-19 testing under MCC's published [protocol](#), MCC will undertake disciplinary action to enforce compliance, which may include interim suspension, or take administrative measures to electronically deactivate MCC ID card access (or equivalent) and restrict access to any buildings with the exception of access required to obtain health care services pursuant to campus policy.

Take Care of Yourself – Physically and Mentally

We understand that this is an exceptionally challenging time. MCC and SUNY have resources to help you get the support you need.

- [MCC Student Resources](#)
- [MCC Libraries Updates, Resources, and Services](#)
- [MCC's Counseling Center](#): (585) 292-2140, counselingservices@monroecc.edu
- [MCC Veteran Services](#)
- Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 or text to **838255**
- National Text Line for Students of Color: Text **STEVE** to **741-741**
- National Trans Lifeline: 1-877-565-8860
- [ReachOut SUNY](#)
- [Thriving Campus](https://www.thrivingcampus.com/): <https://www.thrivingcampus.com/>
- [Middle Earth from the University at Albany](#)
- New York State Office of Mental Health Crisis Text Line: Text **GOT5** to **741-741**

Understand What's Being Offered Online, Remotely and On Campus

Spring 2021 semester instruction* will be fully online or remote, except for those clinical practicums, research, and applied learning experiences that require physical presence. Barring unforeseen circumstances, MCC will offer 23% of our courses in a traditional, face-to-face format. MCC will offer these course options for spring 2021:

- **Online:** You choose when to sign in and participate in course activities but are expected to meet faculty attendance and participation requirements.
- **Remote:** Using Blackboard, Zoom, or other technologies, you sign in and participate virtually in lectures and group work during the specific times listed for the class.
- **Traditional:** You come to campus for each scheduled meeting time, in smaller groups that allow for social distancing.
- **Hybrid:** A portion of your learning occurs in person, on campus during scheduled meeting times. The rest of your learning experience is delivered remotely or online.

[Spring Semester 2021 Courses Formats: Distance Learning & On Campus](#)

** Under SUNY's guidance, only online and remote instruction will be offered during the first week of classes between Jan. 25-Feb. 1, 2020. A limited number of courses will begin in-person instruction on Jan. 25 as approved by SUNY.*

Get Instructional and Technology Help

With various distance-learning options available to match different learning styles, needs and preferences, MCC is ready to help you successfully navigate the virtual world:

- [Student Technology Help Desk](#) (292-TECH): A one-stop source to assist with connecting to and using MCC technologies, such as basic account management, email, Blackboard login issues, and more.
- [MCC Student Tech Help Guide](#)
- [Student Login to myMCC/Blackboard](#)
- [“How to Zoom 101”](#) video: Learn how to Zoom from an MCC peer navigator. MCC has a Zoom license, so you can create your own Zoom account to stay connected using your MCC email and password.
- The [SUNY Online Help Desk](#) (1-844-OPEN-SUNY): Assists SUNY Online students with Blackboard related questions, for example submitting assignments, tests, seeing grades, and more.
- [Online Learning Orientation](#) and [Navigating a New Classroom](#): Provide support information and tips for SUNY Online learners. You can find more support on MCC Technology and Blackboard.

Links to resources are also available within myMCC (Blackboard) and on the [Student Resources & FAQs](#) web page.

Request Accommodations for Disabilities

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, MCC ensures that admission, services, activities, facilities, and academic programs are accessible and usable by qualified students with disabilities.

Students who wish to disclose covered disabilities and receive reasonable accommodations for their disabilities should contact MCC’s Disability Services Office at (585) 292-2140 or via email at disabilityservices@monroecc.edu.

[Reasonable accommodations](#) are available to students who meet the academic and technical standards required for admission or participation in the educational program or activity, with or without the provision of academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids.

Follow Housing and Dining Updates

On-campus housing is available for students who are registered for the spring semester. The Housing and Residence Life Office will notify student-residents of their scheduled return date and time.

Students must sign an agreement to comply with housing policies and safety protocols. Failure to follow the rules may result in immediate removal from the residence halls.

During the move-in period:

- Students from remote ZIP codes move in first and local students move in last.
- Limited number of students are allowed in the building for check-in: one student per hall per half-hour with only one support person for move-in.
- Single entrance/Separate exit is clearly marked for each residence hall.
- Designated stairwells and elevators are for single-family use.
- No-guest policy is in effect for each residence hall.
- Common areas where students, faculty, and staff are likely to congregate and interact will remain closed.

Dining, housing and residential life services will be offered in ways to maximize social distancing during the spring semester.

If MCC has to PAUSE

If MCC is directed by New York state or Monroe County to pause for two-weeks (or longer), the following rules apply to ensure your health and safety:

- Students will be immediately notified via email.
- All in-person classes and labs will transition to remote or online delivery.
- Do not come to campus until you are instructed to return safely as campus population density must remain at a minimum.
- Monitor your email, MCC's website and social media for updates regarding state and county guidance related to moving campus operations, learning and services to fully online and remote.
- In-person meetings, programs and services will transition to remote formats.
- Student-residents will be informed of next steps by MCC Association's Housing and Residence Life staff and are not to leave the residence halls except with approval from MCC and the Monroe County Department of Public Health. Residence halls will remain open with increased restrictions. Students are urged to stay on campus. If you leave campus without permission from your resident director, mandated sanctions may apply. If the MCC Association requires you to move out of the residence halls during the pause, Housing and Residence Life staff will inform you of your options and will prorate housing costs and fee refunds based on your move out date. If you do not have a safe place to go, you will be able to stay in the residence halls.
- Commuter students are urged to remain in the residence.
- Athletic and recreational activities will be suspended
- Additional mitigation strategies will be considered, dependent on the nature of the spike in cases.

If MCC Has to Pivot to Remote Instruction

If MCC is directed by New York state or Monroe County to offer only fully online and remote instruction:

- Students will be immediately notified via email.
- Your professors will communicate updated course information.
- Do not come to campus until you are instructed to return safely as campus population density must remain at a minimum.
- Monitor your email, MCC's website and social media for updates.
- Student-residents will be informed of next steps by MCC Association's Housing and Residence Life staff and are not to leave the residence halls except with approval from MCC and the Monroe County Department of Public Health. If you leave campus without permission, mandated sanctions may apply. Housing and Residence Life staff will inform you of your options and will prorate housing costs and fee refunds based on your move out date. If you do not have a safe place to go, you will be able to stay in the residence halls.
- Core services—including Admissions, Financial Aid and Advising—will be delivered remotely.
- Student supports and programs, including tutoring, counseling, library services, technology help, emergency grant programs, scholarships, and student-parent resources will be available remotely.
- Students may purchase books and materials online for curbside pickup or shipping.

Changes and Updates

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic creates a fluid situation that may require unexpected changes in our response. Updates to scientific knowledge, public health guidance, or laws and regulations may mean SUNY and MCC have to make changes to our standards and rules, including those indicated above. SUNY and MCC will try to minimize these changes and their impact. We will keep you informed of new developments.

Thank you in advance for everything you are doing and will do to make 2021 safe for you, your fellow students, and the campus community and beyond.