

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Interim Guidance for Surveillance Testing on Higher Education Campuses with On-Campus Residential Populations for the Spring 2021 Semester

March 26, 2021

These recommendations are a follow-up to those recommendations issued February 25, 2021.

Due to the high community rates of transmission in many of the communities that include IHE campuses in the state and the concerns about increasing circulation of variants in the month of March, DPH had previously recommended that schools maintain a weekly cadence for testing of all residential students. Since then, case rates have plateaued and remain high throughout much of the state. As expected, the B.1.1.7 COVID-19 variant has also increased and other more transmissible COVID-19 variants have been detected in Connecticut.

Given these concerns and a desire to continue to suppress outbreaks as much as possible, DPH recommends continuing a minimum of weekly testing of residential students for the rest of the spring term. Testing of traditional undergraduate students residing in off-campus housing who access campus should continue at a minimum of 25% weekly.

As previously stated, ideally, weekly testing would be in the form of 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) are reported to DPH in the prescribed electronic format
- Positive antigen test results can be confirmed with a molecular test

Pooled testing may also be used as a strategy for weekly testing as long as any pooled samples that result positive are confirmed with molecular testing of all students in the sample.



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