

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH
Acting Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

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

February 25, 2021

These recommendations are a follow-up to those recommendations issued January 8, 2021.

Due to the high community rates of transmission in many of the communities that include IHE campuses in the state, DPH had previously recommended that schools increase their cadence for testing of students to ensure that all residential students, as well as any traditional undergraduate students residing in off-campus housing who will be accessing campus to attend classes or otherwise, are tested a minimum of once per week for January and February 2021.

Even though case rates have been decreasing over the last 5 to 6 weeks and only a few campuses have seen outbreaks so far this semester, case rates for many of our communities remains above the "red alert" level (15 or more new cases per 100,000 population per day during the past two weeks). There is also a possibility that case rates may increase as the B.1.1.7 COVID-19 variant becomes more common in March.

Given these concerns and a desire to suppress outbreaks as much as possible, DPH recommends continuing a minimum of weekly testing of residential students for the month of March. Testing of traditional undergraduate students residing in off-campus housing who access campus can be decreased to a minimum of 25% weekly.

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.



Phone: (860) 509-7740 • Fax: (860) 509-7785
Telecommunications Relay Service 7-1-1
410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308
www.ct.gov/dph

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer



VERSION DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 2021