



NEW ENGLAND INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

CAMPUS COVID-19 UPDATE

November 12, 2020

TO: Faculty, Staff and Students

FROM: Scott Freund, Executive Vice President

RE: COVID-19 Testing

In response to the email sent on November 9, 2020 pertaining to increased COVID-19 testing at NEIT, there have been several questions about the reason for testing people who are learning or working 100% from home even if they don't have any contact with other members of the NEIT community. This concern is understandable, so here is the simple answer.

As we continue to work with the expert public health officials and state leaders, it is critical that testing and contact tracing are increased significantly in the state of Rhode Island and across the country to limit the spread of COVID-19. This is a high priority initiative to help keep all of us as safe during this pandemic. This initiative is in the interest of those in the NEIT community and in the interest of every Rhode Islander.

The numbers of COVID-19 cases, severe illness, hospitalizations and deaths are rising fast all over the country, including in Rhode Island. Therefore, the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) has directed NEIT and the other Rhode Island colleges and universities to leverage every possible resource in expanding their testing efforts to help to keep us as safe as possible. This includes testing students, faculty and staff who attend classes or work on campus as well as those who live in Rhode Island and work or attend classes 100% remotely. **(This is a RIDOH requirement.)** Students, faculty and staff who attend classes or work 100% remotely and live outside of Rhode Island are not part of this surveillance testing program and are encouraged to review their states' guidance and policies on periodic testing.

For our part, we are requiring the students, faculty and staff as described above to get tested at least once before the December break that begins on December 19, 2020. Our residential students will continue to be tested weekly as they have been since the beginning of the Fall Term. For the state's part, the Department of Health will provide tests at their testing sites at no cost to the NEIT community to supplement NEIT's resources.

We hope this clarification helps. Additional communications setting out your testing schedule and other important information will be sent shortly. You may contact the NEIT Tracing team for more information; NEITTracing@neit.edu.