



FAQ
Residential Students
COVID-19 Policies, Procedures and Additional information
January 6, 2021

NEIT continues efforts to keep our campus as safe as possible from COVID-19. We are counting on our residential students to do their part to help minimize the risk of COVID-19 infection in Meltzer Residence Hall and throughout our campuses. **Compliance with all COVID-19 related policies and procedures is so important in reducing the risk of transmission that noncompliance may result in immediate disciplinary action up to and including removal from the residence hall and/or dismissal from NEIT.** Let's do the right thing and look out for one another! Below are a series of questions and answers that will help students plan for a successful academic term.

Q. How do I find NEIT's COVID related policies and procedures?

A. Students are required to read and follow the COVID-19 policies and procedures established by NEIT in its Reopening Plan as well as other COVID-19 related communications issued by NEIT. They can be found on the Student Website, <https://students.neit.edu>. The same information appears on the University's website, www.neit.edu (NEIT ALERT: COVID-19 announcements, preparation, and resources).

Students should also review the **COVID-19 Policy** in the Student Handbook (page 47): <https://www.neit.edu/Content/Editor/file/2020%20Student%20Handbook.pdf>

Q. What is expected of me?

A. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES EXPECTED OF YOU INCLUDE:

- **WEARING AN APPROPRIATE FACE MASK (NO BANDANAS OR GATOR MASKS) AT ALL TIMES ON CAMPUS**, inside and outside, while alone or with others. The only time resident students can go without a mask is in Meltzer Residence Hall when they are alone in their rooms. If you are in your room with another resident student or Res Life staff member, you both must wear your masks. The face mask must cover the nose and mouth. If you are eating or drinking a beverage, the mask must be returned to cover your nose and mouth as soon as you finish eating or taking a sip of your beverage. If you need to cough or sneeze, even though you are wearing a mask, you should sneeze or cough into a tissue and discard the tissue into a trash receptacle immediately. If a tissue is not available, use the inside of your elbow;
- **MAINTAINING PHYSICAL DISTANCING OF AT LEAST 6' FROM OTHER PEOPLE;**
- **LIMITING YOUR SOCIAL INTERACTIONS TO SMALL "STABLE" GROUPS OF PEOPLE** comprising, to the greatest extent possible, the same members from day to day and from setting to setting; and
- **REFRAINING** from attending large gatherings in excess of the size allowed by the applicable Governor's Executive Order, which is 10 people as of this writing, on or off-campus.

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES EXPECTED OF YOU:

- Participating in screening, with accurate self-reported information, before entering NEIT buildings each day. The NEIT community is strongly encouraged to utilize the digital Screening Checklist available on TechNet (COVID-19 Screening Form), <https://technet.neit.edu/College-Information/Covid-19-Screening-for-Building-Entry>, before entering NEIT facilities;
- Following University requirement with respect to testing, contact tracing, quarantining, and isolating;
- Maintaining an accurate journal listing any people with whom you have had close contact (within 6' for a total of 15 minutes or more over a period of 24 hours) regardless of whether or not face masks had been worn. Contacts will be recorded by date and location. The NEIT community is strongly encouraged to download and use the CrushCOVID-19 RI app available on the Apple Store and Google Play. The app provides a convenient tool for noting personal contacts and offers other useful information about COVID-19 from the Rhode Island Department of Health. If contacted by the Rhode Island Department of Health, provide the staff person with your Rhode Island address, even if your permanent home is out of state. The residence hall address is:

New England Institute of Technology
(Student Name and Room Number)
75 New England Tech Boulevard
East Greenwich, RI 02818

- Washing hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds. If hand washing facilities are not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol;
- Complying with the posted maximum occupancy for rooms and elevators;
- Complying with postings to clean touched surfaces before and after each use;
- Refraining from meeting with or visiting with people in private offices, meeting rooms of 200 square feet or less, or rooms that may be closed for general use; and
- Reading and taking responsibility for adherence to the University's COVID 19 Policy, Reopening Plan and COVID-19 directives and communications (links provided above).

Q. Why can't students attend parties or large gatherings off campus?

A. Attending large gatherings and parties has been demonstrated to be a source of widespread COVID-19 infection. Efforts to keep the NEIT campus community safe could be compromised if students choose to attend large off-campus gatherings, even for a brief period. These include gatherings at bars, night clubs and social gatherings in public venues or private homes and apartments.

Students should be aware that the state of Rhode Island is monitoring attendance at such gatherings and will be informing NEIT if any NEIT students are found to be participating.

If NEIT has evidence of students' attendance at parties or participation in large gatherings as stated above where the attendees are not complying with the Governor's Executive Orders for mask wearing, social distancing and social gathering size limits, students may face disciplinary action under NEIT's Student Conduct Policy, which may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from NEIT.

Q. What happens if I don't comply with what is expected of students as described above?

A. Efforts to keep the NEIT campus community safe could be compromised if students do not comply with the safe practices (mask wearing, social distancing, etc.) required to limit the risk of COVID-19

transmission and could jeopardize on-ground educational opportunities for all students. Violations will not be tolerated. The following are the sanctions that may be applied for the following partial list of violations:

Violation Example: Not wearing a mask on NEIT campuses, inside and outside, and in the residence hall (bedrooms and common areas), unless the resident students are alone in their rooms:

- First offense: a written warning;
- Second offense: a \$100 fine;
- Third offense: a two-week suspension from NEIT (students cannot be on campus, attend class, or participate in activities); and
- Fourth offense: A longer suspension or possible dismissal from NEIT.

Violation Example: Attending large gatherings on or off campus, which include gatherings in the residence hall (bedrooms and common areas) as well as at bars, night clubs and social gatherings in public venues, private homes or apartments where the attendees are not complying with the Governor's Executive Orders for mask wearing, social distancing and social gathering size limits. If NEIT has evidence of students' attendance at parties or participation in large gatherings as stated above, the following sanctions will be applied:

- First offense: A two-week suspension from NEIT (Students cannot be on campus, attend class, or participate in activities. Students will be advised to self-quarantine for 14 days during this period.); and
- Second offense: A longer suspension and possible dismissal from NEIT.

Violation Example: Refraining from participating in COVID testing, as required by NEIT.

- First offense: \$150 fine and the requirement to immediately self-quarantine in your residence hall room, other than to take a COVID test that you schedule off campus or, if available, take on campus. The self-quarantine will remain in effect until you receive your test results. Students who test positive will need to leave campus and self-isolate in accordance with their COVID Care Plan.
- Second offense: \$150 fine and removal from the residence hall for two weeks (during which period the student will be advised to quarantine) with the requirement upon return to show the results of a negative COVID test (a PCR test – not a rapid test) taken within 72 hours of arriving to campus.
- Third offense: \$150 fine and removal from the residence hall for up to the remainder of the term (during which period the student will be advised to quarantine for 14 days). If allowed to return within the term, there will be a requirement to show the results of a negative COVID test (a PCR test – not a rapid test) taken within 72 hours of arriving to campus.

This list does not include all COVID-19 violations for which sanctions may be imposed. Students are reminded that they are required to read and follow the COVID-19 related policies and procedures established by NEIT in the Student Handbook, in NEIT's Reopening Plan as well as in other COVID-19 related communications issued by NEIT.

Q. Do I have to be screened when I go into the residence hall or the other buildings on NEIT's campuses?

A. Resident students will be screened at a Check-In Station upon entering Meltzer Hall and other buildings on campus. Students are required to self-screen before leaving Meltzer Hall to start their day on campus by completing NEIT's digital COVID-19 Checklist located on the Student Website, <https://students.neit.edu/Campus-Info/Covid-19-Screening-for-Building-Entry>.

Upon arrival at any Check-in Station, students are required to swipe their NEIT student ID and show the Public Safety Officer (PSO) the result of their digital screening, a green checkmark or a red X. They will have their temperature taken with a contactless thermometer. If screening and temperature checks show no negative answers or fever over 100.4 degrees F, students will be allowed to enter NEIT buildings on the day of the screening. If screening shows any negative response not attributed to allergies or a non-infectious illness, resident students will be sent to their room and will be advised to contact their healthcare professional for further evaluation. Students will follow the procedures described in the NEIT Reopening Plan.

If students arrive at a Check-in Station and have not satisfactorily completed a digital screening process, they will be screened by verbal interview and temperature check by a PSO. Students who are not cleared for building entry by the PSO will be required to follow the procedure described above.

Q. What do I need to know about maintaining a journal for contact tracing?

A. It is very important that students maintain a journal of the names of the people with whom they have close contact (contact within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period) and the dates and locations of where the contact occurred. This information will be needed if any NEIT community members test positive for COVID-19.

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, the tracing process will be conducted by NEIT's in-house Contact Tracing Team. A member of the NEIT Contact Tracing Team will contact the members of the NEIT community with whom an infected NEIT student has had close contact and will give directives as to what the close contacts need to do. The infected student may also be contacted by the RI Department of Health's contact tracing team.

Students are encouraged to install and use the CrushCOVID-19 RI app available on the Apple Store and Google Play, or an app with similar capabilities. Locational information tracked by the app will remain on an individual's smartphone or tablet and will only be accessible by the RI Department of Health in the event a person tests positive for COVID-19 and only if the individual provides permission.

Students are also encouraged to use the QR Code cards where available on campus to assist with the accuracy and efficiency of the contact tracing program.

Q. What do I do if I have COVID-19 symptoms or test positive for COVID?

A. COVID-19 symptoms may include: a fever, sore throat, cough, chills (as well as fatigue and body ache), headache, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, runny/stuffy nose, recent loss of taste and/or smell and difficulty breathing.

If you have any of these symptoms and you are in your residence hall room, stay there. If you are elsewhere on campus, return to your room. You will begin immediate quarantine until further direction is provided. Then contact NEIT's Contact Tracing Team at NEITTracing@neit.edu. Students exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms will be directed to contact their healthcare professional for evaluation and testing. Resident students testing positive will follow the provisions of their COVID-19 Care Plan.

If you test positive for COVID-19, contact NEIT's Contact Tracing Team at NEITTracing@neit.edu.

Q. Will I have to be tested for COVID-19 while living in Meltzer Residence Hall?

A. Yes. Resident students will be notified of when they will need to make scheduled appointments on days designated by NEIT for testing on campus. Scheduling will make efforts to allow students flexibility with regard to time of day in order to minimize conflicts with class or other activity times. Students will be expected to keep their scheduled appointments. If they do not, they may be required to pay a \$150 fine; quarantine in their rooms or at home, as determined by the number of tests the student misses; and/or face disciplinary action, which may include removal from the residence hall and suspension or dismissal from NEIT.

Because an individual with the COVID-19 virus can pose a direct threat to the health of others at NEIT, as a condition of being permitted on and remaining on NEIT's campus, all students, are required to take a COVID-19 test(s) and to disclose the test results to the NEIT Contact Tracing Team, at NEITTracing@neit.edu. Students who refuse to disclose the results of testing to NEIT officials, will be prohibited from coming on or remaining on campus and may be subject to disciplinary action.

Q. Do I need to be tested for COVID-19 before I move into the residence hall?

A. Yes. To move into the residence hall, all resident students will need to have a negative COVID test result (PCR test -not a rapid test) taken within 72 hours of arriving to NEIT. The test results should be sent to the Contact Tracing Team at NEITTracing@neit.edu.

Due to the high number of positive COVID test results in the country and throughout the region, and because students could have contracted COVID after taking their 72-hour test, to further assist in keeping the campus safe, NEIT will require additional testing for the resident students, to include a rapid test the first day of the Winter Term (the day after move-in), followed the next day by a PCR COVID test, which will also be administered on campus.

Q. Do students need to self-quarantine when they arrive to Rhode Island from a "Hot Spot State" or from outside the country?

A. Students coming to Rhode Island from a state that the RI Department of Health considers a Hot Spot State, a state with a COVID-19 positivity rate of higher than 5% , will need to quarantine for 14 days in their residence hall room or provide proof of a negative result from a COVID-19 test (a PCR test – not a rapid test) taken within 72 hours prior to arrival to campus.

The states on the Rhode Island "Hot Spot State" list can change daily. It will be important to check the "Hot Spot State" list frequently, especially on the date you plan to arrive to Rhode Island. "Hot Spot State" designations are those that are in effect on the day of your arrival to Rhode Island. Rhode Island's "Hot Spot State" link is: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/1/d/e/2PACX-1vSUCk9FIHBoJt5ZO0U6PKTTY7jHH8V4MovEDOWiqpTTixdgMSCnUWI25xX5DCmQmtLknzu7Bo0jwY02/pubhtml?gid=0&single=true>

Students traveling from countries outside of the US must quarantine for 14 days in their residence hall room when they arrive to campus.

Students who are required to self-quarantine upon arrival from a “Hot Spot State” or outside the country will be completing their 14-day self-quarantine in their assigned rooms. Prepared meals will be delivered to Meltzer Residence Hall.

Students cannot attend on-ground classes during the 14-day self-quarantine period. Instead, they can take their classes remotely, if applicable, or make arrangements with their instructors to complete their coursework.

Q. What other information do I need to know about quarantining and/or isolating?

A. See NEIT’s Reopening Plan for more information about self-quarantining and self-isolating (Student Website, <https://students.neit.edu> or www.neit.edu (NEIT ALERT: COVID-19 announcements, preparation, and resources).

Q. How will I know if I have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?

A. The person who has tested positive may make you aware of this and, if so, you should immediately contact NEIT’s Contact Tracing Team at NEITTracing@neit.edu .

If you had close contact (defined by the RI Department of Health as contact within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period)) with a COVID infected person who is a member of the NEIT community, you will be notified by a member of NEIT’s Contact Tracing Team and given directions about self-quarantining and when you can resume regular activities.

Q. What happens if NEIT needs to close the residence hall on short notice because of a COVID-19 outbreak.

A. Students should be prepared to vacate the residence hall (immediately) in the event that the University decides to, or is required by the state of Rhode Island to, close the residence hall. They should have plans that provide for a safe place to stay and a safe method of transportation (not public transportation) to get there. In addition, students should pack a “go bag” with the things they may need if the residence hall needs to be vacated on short notice. (For more information, see the question below, “What to Bring to the Residence Hall?”)

SOME CHANGES RESIDENT STUDENTS WILL SEE IN THE RESIDENCE HALL DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS:

Students are required to review the Student Handbook for more information about Residence Life policies and procedures. Some policies and procedures have been changed, as indicated below, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q. Are guests allowed in the residence hall?

A. Only resident students are allowed in the residence hall (no outside guests, including NEIT commuters and family members). Resident students may have only one other resident student in their rooms at a time. (Masks must be worn unless students are alone in their rooms.)

Q. Can I use any shared bathroom located in the hallways?

A. To minimize the number of students who use each residence hall bathroom, resident students will be assigned to bathrooms. Students are allowed to use only the bathrooms to which they have been assigned. Students in traditional style rooms will be assigned to shared bathrooms in the hallway. Students in suites must use only the bathroom in their suite.

Students in a suite with a shared bathroom must clean the bathroom daily with cleaning supplies provided by NEIT. If cleaning supplies are needed, contact the Office of Residence Life.

Note: Bathroom assignments may change during the term. Students will be notified of any changes by the Office of Residence Life.

Q. Can I use the community kitchen?

A. Students may use the Community Kitchen for incidental preparation of snacks and refreshments. Students will not be able to use the refrigerator. Students will be expected to use the disinfecting wipes provided by NEIT to clean whatever objects and surfaces they may touch.

See the Residence Life section of the Student Handbook for more information pertaining to the community kitchen.

Q. Can I have a refrigerator in my room?

A. Students are strongly encouraged to rent a MicroFridge, the only approved microwave and refrigerator allowed in the residence hall. Information about MicroFridge is available at <https://mymicrofridge.com/order-now/>. Check with the Office of Residence Life for the deadline to order a MicroFridge.

Q. Can I remove/move furniture in my room?

A. Students will be assigned to rooms by themselves that are normally used as double rooms. The second set of furniture will remain in those rooms and cannot be removed.

NEIT has removed furniture in common areas to reduce the capacity in those spaces. Students are not allowed to bring furniture from their rooms or from other lounges or other common areas to increase seating in any area.

See the Residence Life section of the Student Handbook for more information pertaining to furniture.

Q. Can I use the laundry room?

A. Maximum occupancy will be posted at the entrance. Students will be expected to follow the posted instructions, including the use the disinfecting wipes provided by NEIT to clean whatever objects and surfaces they may touch.

Q. What should I bring to the Residence Hall?

A. See the list at the following: <https://www.neit.edu/Student-Life/Residence-Life/What-to-Bring-Not-Bring>.

In addition, students should pack a “go bag” in case they need to leave the residence hall or their room in order to self-quarantine or self isolate. It should include anything they may need for the duration of their quarantine or isolation, such as: a thermometer, prescriptions, laptop, charging plug, text books, a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, deodorant, contact lenses, contact solution, glasses, retainer, shampoo, conditioner, soap, feminine products, brush/comb, underwear, socks, pajamas, t-shirts, sweatpants, shoes, hand sanitizer and face masks.

Students are encouraged to also bring a light weight, folding beach or lawn chair (not upholstered), since some of the residence hall meetings and other activities, including individual activities such as studying, reading or informal socializing, may be held outdoors.

Q. Will things be different in the Dining Center because of the COVID-19 pandemic?

A. There have been modifications to the campus dining program, to include an increase in "to go" options, elimination of self-service stations, and reduced seating to meet social distancing guidelines. Students should sit 6 feet away from others. Students are encouraged to form small social groups, with whom they may share tables and eat meals on a regular basis.

Table and chairs should not be moved. Students should comply with the seating designation and occupancy limits posted on the tables and in the booths.

Students will be encouraged to use the QR Code cards where available on campus to assist with the accuracy and efficiency of the contact tracing program.

Q. Will student activities and recreation be different because of the COVID-19 pandemic?

A. Group sizes for student activities must be reduced and comply with the Governor's Executive Order for social gathering sizes. Therefore, some activities will be offered multiple times to allow more students in smaller groups to enjoy the same activity. The Student Activities Office will offer some virtual activities rather than all in-person.

The Fitness Center will remain closed until further notice.

Intramurals will not be held during the 2021 Winter Term.

Q. Will NEIT shuttle services that run between the university's campuses be running?

A. Yes. NEIT's shuttle buses that operate between the NEIT campuses will be running, but will have reduced seating.

Note: All students are required to comply with NEIT's COVID-19 related policies and procedures, which may be updated at any time.