



FAQ
Commuter Students
COVID-19 Policies and Procedures
January 8, 2021

NEIT continues efforts to keep our campus as safe as possible from COVID-19. We are counting on our students to do their part to help minimize the risk of COVID-19 infection 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 suspension 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 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 expectations 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.
- 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.

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. Will I have to be tested for COVID-19 during the Winter Term?

A. Yes. There will be no charge to students for the on-campus testing. Students will be notified of when they will need to make scheduled appointments. Scheduling will make efforts to allow students flexibility with regard to certain days of the week, time of day and campus location (tests will be offered on the East Greenwich and Access Road campuses).

Testing is mandatory. Students who do not test may face disciplinary action.

Q. Do I have to be screened when I go into buildings on NEIT's campuses?

A. Students are required to self-screen before leaving home 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 responses 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 responses not attributed to allergies or a non-infectious illness, students will be asked to leave campus 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 an accurate 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-19?

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 before you leave for campus, stay home. If you have symptoms once on campus, leave campus to return to your home. In both cases, after developing symptoms, 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.

If you test positive for COVID-19, you must contact NEIT's Contact Tracing Team at NEITTracing@neit.edu. A member of that team will provide you with the date you can return to campus.

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

A. A "Hot Spot State" is defined by the RI Department of Health as a state with a COVID-19 test positivity rate in excess of 5%. See list at:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/1/d/e/2PACX-1vSUCk9FIHBoJt5ZO0U6PKTTY7jHH8V4MovED0WiqpTTixdgMSCnUWI25xX5DCmQmtLknzu7Bo0jwY02/pubhtml?gid=0&single=true>.

The states on Rhode Island's "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.

Whether you live in RI or another state, if you travel to a "Hot Spot State" for more than same-day travel, you must notify NEIT's Contact Tracing Team (CTT), NEITTracing@neit.edu, when you return home and prior to returning to campus.

Commuter Students Living Outside of Rhode Island - If commuter students, living outside of Rhode Island, regardless of whether in a “Hot Spot State” or not, spend their time away from campus at their homes, they should be considered the same as people commuting to RI for work, which means there is no need to quarantine before arriving to NEIT.

Commuter Students Who Travel to a Hot Spot State - If commuter students travel to a “Hot Spot State”, other than the one in which they live for at least overnight travel, they would have to quarantine for 14 days upon return home or provide NEIT with proof of a negative result from a COVID-19 test (a PCR test – not a rapid test) taken within 72 hours prior to the date the student wants to return to campus. Test results should be sent to NEIT’s Contact Tracing Team, NEITTracing@neit.edu.

Students cannot attend on-ground classes during the 14-day quarantine period. Instead, they can take their classes remotely, if applicable, or make arrangements with their instructors to complete the course work. New students should contact their Admissions Officer and returning students should contact their Student Advisor if they need to know how to contact their instructors to discuss 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, click NEIT ALERT: COVID-19 announcements, preparation, and resources).

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.

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 offered during the 2021 Winter Term.

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

A. There are modifications to the campus dining program, to include increased “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 are encouraged to use the QR Code cards where available to assist with the accuracy and efficiency of the contact tracing program.

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