



NEW ENGLAND INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

CAMPUS COVID-19 UPDATE

December 17, 2020

TO: Faculty and Staff
FROM: Scott Freund, Executive Vice President
RE: Returning to Campus After the Winter Break

As we prepare for the winter break period and the staff holidays, it is important for you to know the following information if you will be physically returning to any of NEIT's campuses after having time off.

Please understand that the following was written based on guidance from the RI Department of Health (RIDOH) and the Governor's Office, as it stands today. Things can change quickly during this pandemic; therefore, as warranted, an update to this memo may be distributed if the guidance from RIDOH and/or the Governor's Office changes. Please keep an eye on your email for any NEIT updates during the break.

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-1vSUCk9FIHBoJt5ZO0U6PKTTY7jHH8V4MovEDOWiqpTTixdgMSCnUWI25xX5DCmQmtLknzu7Bo0jwY02/pubhtml?gid=0&single=true>.

The states on the "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. It is important to notify your supervisor in advance of traveling to a "Hot Spot State" in the event you will need to quarantine upon your return (see below), to determine if your potential 14-day absence from campus will have a negative impact on your department or classes.

The following is the most recent guidance NEIT has received from the Governor's Office. The information pertaining to students is included, so employees are aware of their requirements.

1. **Employees Who Travel to a Hot Spot State** - If employees travel to a “Hot Spot State”, other than the one in which they live, for reasons other than commuting to work (example, employee lives in MA and travels to Florida to visit relatives) they will be required to quarantine for 14 days upon their return home or, in the alternative, provide a negative COVID test result (PCR test – not a rapid test) taken within 72 hours of the date of their arrival home. Those choosing to take a 72-hour PCR test will need to quarantine until a negative test result is returned, after which their quarantine can end. (Test results need to be submitted to NEIT’s Contact Tracing Team, NEITTracing@neit.edu, prior to returning to campus.) A 14-day quarantine prior to arriving to campus is required if the employee does not submit a 72-hour test result. Note: Based on guidance received from the state, this requirement differs for students.
2. **Students and Employees Living Outside of Rhode Island** - If commuter students and employees, living outside of Rhode Island, regardless of whether in a “Hot Spot State” or not, spend their time off 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.
3. **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 reasons other than commuting to school, they would have to quarantine for 14 days upon return home and before they can arrive to NEIT. (For example, if a student lives in MA and travels to Florida to visit friends or family, the student must quarantine for 14 days upon return home.) Students cannot provide a negative COVID test result in lieu of completing a 14-day quarantine. Note: Based on guidance received from the state, this requirement differs for employees.
4. **Resident Students** - Resident students who live in or travel to a “Hot Spot State”, during the break will need to submit a negative COVID test result (PCR test – not a rapid test) taken within 72 hours of the time of arrival to NEIT and will need to quarantine in the residence hall for 14 days upon arrival to campus.

When you return home, you will not be allowed on campus until you have provided NEIT’s CTT (NEITTracing@neit.edu), with evidence of a negative COVID-19 test result (a PCR test - a lab test, not a rapid test) taken within 72 hours of the date you intend to return to campus. Once your test result is submitted to the CTT, a CTT staff member will then confirm the date you can return to campus.

You are reminded that although this memo references the winter break period, travel to a “Hot Spot State” occurring at any time will require faculty and staff to follow the same steps indicated above.

We thank you for all that you have done so far to keep the NEIT community safe and ask that you continue to do your part in minimizing the risk of COVID-19 transmission during this pandemic.

Wishing you a happy and safe holiday season!