Frequently Asked Questions
COVID-19 Policies and Procedures
Effective beginning with the 2021 Summer Term

July 12, 2021

NEIT continues its 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 throughout our campuses and in the residence hall. **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 campus and, as applicable, the residence hall.** Let's continue do the right thing and look out for one another! Below are a series of questions and answers that will help students plan for successful upcoming academic terms.

Q. Does NEIT require that students be vaccinated against COVID?
A. *__All students:__* (Resident students, see below for information effective beginning with the 2021 Summer Term.) Effective beginning with the 2021 Fall Term, all students need to be fully vaccinated, unless they have been granted an exemption for medical or religious reasons. Those granted an exemption may, as an accommodation, be required to participate in on-going COVID-19 surveillance testing, to wear a mask, to quarantine if in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID, to practice social distancing and to comply with other requirements deemed necessary to protect the student's health and the health of the NEIT community.

Students should plan ahead to allow for the necessary waiting periods between and after vaccinations to be considered fully vaccinated. It takes up to 4 weeks between the two-shot Moderna or Pfizer vaccines. In addition, it also takes two weeks following the last shot for the vaccination to be considered fully vaccinated. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine requires only one shot and also has a two-week waiting period after the shot is given to be considered fully vaccinated.

Before coming on campus, students must submit proof of being fully vaccinated to NEIT's Contact Tracing Team (NEITtracing@neit.edu).

__Resident Students:__ Effective beginning with the **2021 Summer Term,** all resident students are required to be vaccinated against COVID 19, unless they have been granted an exemption for medical or religious reasons. Those granted an exemption may, as an accommodation, be required to participate in on-going COVID-19 surveillance testing every two weeks, to wear a mask, to quarantine if in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID, to practice social distancing and to comply with other requirements deemed necessary to protect the student's health and the health of the NEIT community. Before coming on campus, students must submit proof of being fully vaccinated to NEIT's Contact Tracing Team (NEITtracing@neit.edu).

Q. Do I need to wear a mask at NEIT beginning with the Summer Term?
A. *Fully vaccinated students:* Vaccinated students who have submitted proof of being fully vaccinated to NEIT's Contact Tracing Team, NEITtracing@neit.edu, do not need to wear a mask indoors or outdoors on campus. (Note: This is subject to change, depending on future guidance from the RI Department of Health and/or the State of RI.) "Fully vaccinated" means you have received all recommended doses of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized by the United States (US) Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or World Health Organization (WHO) and more than 14 days have passed since the final dose.

Unvaccinated students: (The following may also apply to students who have been granted a medical or religious exemption. These students should refer, as applicable, to the list of accommodations they were granted.) Face masks are required indoors on all of NEIT's campuses and outdoors if you cannot maintain a minimum physical distance of 3' between yourself and other people.

Face masks (no bandanas or gaiter masks) must cover the nose <u>and</u> 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.

Q. What else will students need to do as part of NEIT's COVID required procedures?
- Participate in self-screening each day before leaving your home or the residence hall by using the NEIT digital Screening Checklist available on TechNet (COVID-19 Screening Form), https://technet.neit.edu/College-Information/Covid-19-Screening-for-Building-Entry. If you have any of the symptoms listed on the screening form that cannot be attributed to known allergies or non-infectious illnesses, stay home or in your residence hall room and immediately contact NEIT's Contact Tracing Team (NEITtracing@neit.edu) so a member of the team can give you instructions. Resident students should also contact Residence Life (reslife@neit.edu) to let the staff know of your symptoms.
- *Unvaccinated students* (see above) are also required to maintain a distance of 3' from others. *Vaccinated students* do not have requirements for physical distancing from others.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds. If hand washing facilities are not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Comply with any posted maximum occupancy for rooms, seating areas and elevators.
- Comply with postings to clean touched surfaces before and after each use.
- Read and take responsibility for adherence to the University's COVID 19 Policy, COVID-19 directives and communications, which are emailed to students and can also be found on the Student Website, https://students.neit.edu. Students should also review the *COVID-19 Policy* in the Student Handbook (page 47), located on the Student Website (link on top left of homepage).

Q. Is being fully vaccinated a requirement to participate in NEIT activities or to use the Fitness Center or Esports Center?
A. Students must submit proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to NEIT's Contact Tracing Team (NEITtracing@neit.edu) or be granted a medical or religious exemption to participate in intramurals or other student activities as well as to use NEIT's Fitness Center and Esports Center. (Students who are granted a religious or medical exemption must adhere to the accommodations that they are granted, which may require wearing a mask and social distancing while participating in

activities or using the Fitness Center or the Esports Center.) Additional student activities may be advertised to students requiring that students be fully vaccinated or granted a medical or religious exemption to participate.

Q. Will I have to be tested for COVID-19 while attending NEIT?
A*. **Vaccinated students*** are not required to participate in COVID surveillance testing. Your proof of full vaccination must be submitted to NEIT's Contact Tracing Team (NEITTracing@neit.edu) before arriving on campus, otherwise, you will be required to be tested.

Unvaccinated students who will be on any of NEIT's campuses, at any time, are required to participate in COVID surveillance testing at least once every two weeks until further notice. It is the students' responsibility to schedule their appointments for the tests. (You will be emailed information about how to be tested on campus. If you are unable to be tested on campus, you will be responsible for being tested elsewhere.) Students who test off campus are required to disclose the test results to the NEIT Contact Tracing Team, at [NEITTracing@neit.edu,](mailto:NEITTracing@neit.edu) at least 24 hours before their arrival to campus. Students who do not test at least once every two weeks are prohibited from being on campus and may lose access to CANVAS.

Q. Do resident students need to be tested for COVID-19 before they move into the residence hall?
A. Resident students do not need to arrive to NEIT with a negative test result; however, for the safety of all resident students, all residents whether vaccinated or unvaccinated with an exemption, will be required to be tested on the first day of the term (7/19/2021), on-campus. If they miss that test date, they will be required to quarantine in their room (other than to leave the building to get a test) until they receive a negative test result. Resident students must test within 48 hours of missing a test on campus; otherwise, they will need to leave the residence hall and the campus. Test results from tests taken off-campus must be sent to NEIT's Contact Tracing Team, NEITtracing@neit.edu.

Q. What do I do if I had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID, I have symptoms of COVID, or I test positive for COVID?
A. Close contact is defined as having contact within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period with someone who has tested positive for COVID. 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.
- ***Vaccinated students:*** If you had close contact with someone who tested positive and you do not have COVID symptoms, you will not need to self-quarantine. If you have symptoms, even if you didn't have close contact with someone who tested positive, immediately self quarantine, contact your health care professional for directions about what to do, and contact NEIT's Contact Tracing Team, NEITtracing@neit.edu. If you test positive for COVID, immediately self quarantine, contact your health care professional for directions about what to do, and contact NEIT's Contact Tracing Team, NEITtracing@neit.edu.
- ***Unvaccinated students:*** If you had close contact with someone who tested positive, and/or if you have COVID symptoms, and/or test positive, immediately self-quarantine, contact your health care professional for directions about what to do, and contact NEIT's Contact Tracing Team, NEITtracing@neit.edu.

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

A. Efforts to keep the NEIT campus community safe could be compromised if unvaccinated students do not comply with the safe practices (mask wearing, testing, etc.) required to limit the risk of COVID-19 transmission and could jeopardize on-ground educational opportunities for all students. F**ailure to comply with the safe practices** will not be tolerated. See examples of possible consequences for non-compliance below:

Failure to comply with the safe practices:
Example for Non-Residential Students - Not complying with mask wearing, as required by NEIT:
>First and subsequent offenses: Disciplinary action up to and including suspension from NEIT

Failure to comply with the safe practices:
>**Example for Residential Students - Not complying with the accommodation to wear a mask, as required by NEIT:**
>>First offense: meet with a member of the Residential Life staff
>>Second offense: removal from the residence hall

Failure to comply with the safe practices:
>**Example for All Unvaccinated Students - Refraining from participating in COVID surveillance testing, as required by NEIT**:
>>(Vaccinated students are not required to participate in surveillance testing.)

>>***Unvaccinated students***: Students <u>will</u> <u>not</u> be allowed on campus until they provide the Contract Tracing Team with proof of a negative COVID test result. Both positive and negative test results, for tests taken off campus, need to be reported to the Contact Tracing Team, NEITtracing@neit.edu.

>>***Unvaccinated RESIDENT students*** must quarantine in their room (other than to leave the building to get a test) until they receive a negative test result. Resident students must test within 48 hours of missing a test on campus; otherwise, they will need to leave the residence hall and the campus. Test results must be sent to the Contact Tracing Team, NEITtracing@neit.edu. If resident students miss more than one test, they may be removed from the residence hall.

A. Students arriving to RI from other than same-day travel to 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%) or from outside of the country will have to do the following depending on whether they are vaccinated against COVID. (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 RI Hot Spot State List.)
>***Vaccinated students:*** No testing or quarantine is required.

Unvaccinated students: A negative COVID test result from a test taken within 72 hours of returning to RI from within or outside the US must be submitted to NEIT's Contact Tracing Team, NEITtracing@neit.edu, before you can return to campus. If you do not provide a negative test result and/or if you are traveling to RI from a location outside of the US or US territories, you must quarantine for 10 days. Contact NEIT's Contact Tracing Team, NEITtracing@neit.edu, for additional information about your quarantine.

NEIT'S COVID POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MAY CHANGE AT ANY TIME.