



Frequently Asked Questions COVID-19 Policies and Procedures

March 9, 2022

The following provides information about NEIT's updated COVID-19 policies and procedures. Please review carefully. 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/or, as applicable, the residence hall. Let's continue to do the right thing and look out for one another!

Q. Does NEIT require that students be vaccinated against COVID?

A. All students who will be on any of NEIT's campuses need to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, unless they have been granted an exemption for medical or religious reasons. If you haven't done so already, submit proof of being vaccinated to NEIT's Contact Tracing Team (using ONLY your NEIT email), NEITtracing@neit.edu. (New incoming students must submit proof of their vaccination according to the instructions provided to them by the Admissions Office.)

Students are also strongly encouraged to receive a booster shot once eligible. Students are eligible to receive the booster shot 5 months after completing the two-shot Pfizer or Moderna vaccination series or 2 months after receiving the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccination. Proof of receiving a booster should also be sent to NEIT's Contact Tracing Team. Students who receive a booster shot will not need to quarantine if they are a close contact with someone who tests positive. Therefore, to avoid missing classes, get a booster shot!

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

A. All residential students will be required to take a COVID-19 rapid test **upon arrival to campus**. The testing will be done in the student lounge of the main building (not the residence hall). **Only students who test negative will be allowed into the residence hall. Students who test positive will be required to immediately leave campus to isolate at home.** We strongly recommend that resident students from long distances receive a rapid test at home, close to their arrival date to campus, in case they test positive for COVID. This way, they will avoid traveling all the way to NEIT only to find out they cannot move into the residence hall. If they do test positive, they should contact NEIT's Contact Tracing Team, NEITtracing@neit.edu, to let them know and to learn the next steps. Students will be notified of their **arrival test** results by phone, so it is important that your voicemail box is empty and available to accept messages.

All residential students will also need to test on Tuesday, March 29th. Watch for information in your NEIT email.

Q. Will I have to be tested for COVID-19 while attending NEIT?

A. **All unvaccinated students (with exemptions)** who will be on any of NEIT's campuses, at any time, are required to participate in weekly COVID surveillance testing 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. It has become difficult to schedule a COVID test off campus within several days; therefore, **students must make every effort to test on campus.** (The RI state-run test centers now test only individuals who have symptoms or who had close contact with someone who tested positive. **Therefore, if you miss a test on campus, you will have to try to find one at a pharmacy or a doctor's office. This may prove difficult, so don't miss your test on campus!**)

Students who test off campus are required to disclose the test results to the NEIT Contact Tracing Team (using ONLY their NEIT email), NEITtracing@neit.edu. Unvaccinated students who do not test at least weekly are prohibited from being on campus and may lose access to CANVAS.

All residential students will be required to test weekly throughout the term beginning on Tuesday, March 29th. Students who fail to test within a two-week period will not be able to enter the buildings in which classes are held. This means they will not have access to their in-person classes, dining services, the fitness center, the student lounge, or any other areas of the buildings until they submit a negative test result to NEIT's Contact Tracing Team at NEITtracing@neit.edu.

Students who test off campus are required to disclose the test results to the NEIT Contact Tracing Team (using ONLY their NEIT email), NEITtracing@neit.edu. Unvaccinated students who do not test at least weekly are prohibited from being on campus and may lose access to CANVAS.

Q. What will happen if I am required to test and I do not?

A. Students who fail to test within a two-week period will not be able to enter the buildings in which classes are held on any of NEIT's campuses. This means they will not have access to their in-person classes. On the East Greenwich Campus, they also won't have access to dining services, the fitness center, the student lounge or any other areas of the building.

Access to those buildings will be granted when the student submits a negative test result to NEIT's Contact Tracing Team at NEITtracing@neit.edu.

Q. Can I use a home COVID rapid test as proof that I tested?

A. NEIT does not accept the results of home COVID tests as proof that students tested. Students need to test on campus or get a COVID test off-campus. The RI state-run test centers now test only individuals who have symptoms or who had close contact with someone who tested positive. Therefore, if you miss a test on campus, you will have to try to find one at a pharmacy or a doctor's office. This may prove difficult, so don't miss your test on campus!

Q. Do I need to wear a mask at NEIT?

Based on recent CDC guidance and the current data which indicate that the State of Rhode Island is currently experiencing a low level of COVID-19, effective March 9, 2022, students are no longer required

to wear masks* indoors on campus; masks are optional. Please keep in mind there remains a benefit to masking and there are people in our campus community who will continue to wear them. Please respect their decisions.

** If you are immunocompromised or at [high risk of severe illness](#), talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take additional precautions. If you live or have social contact with someone at high risk for severe illness, consider testing yourself for infection before you get together and wearing a mask when indoors with them.*

NEIT will continue to reevaluate the University's COVID protocols based on the level of prevalence of COVID-19 in the community and will revise the mask policy, as needed. Watch for any updates in your NEIT email.

Q. What do I do if I have symptoms of COVID?

A. If you have any of the symptoms below, do not come to campus. If you are a commuter and already on campus and develop any of these symptoms, leave campus immediately and contact NEIT's Contact Tracing Team at NEITtracing@neit.edu for information about what to do next and when you may return to campus. Residential students should immediately return to their rooms, remain in their rooms, and contact NEIT's Contact Tracing Team, NEITtracing@neit.edu, and the Office of Residence Life, reslife@neit.edu, for information about what to do next.

COVID symptoms include: fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, nasal congestion or rhinorrhea, vomiting or diarrhea, and skin rashes. Omicron symptoms may appear as less severe and commonly include only cough, fatigue, congestion and a runny nose; however, any of the symptoms above may be present with Omicron infection.

Q. What do I do if I had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID or if I test positive for COVID?

A. The guidance from the CDC regarding quarantine (if you have symptoms or are exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID) and isolation (if you have tested positive for COVID) continues to evolve; therefore, students should contact NEIT's Contact Tracing Team at NEITtracing@neit.edu for the most current guidance about what to do if you have COVID-like symptoms; if you have been in close contact with someone who has COVID; or if you have tested positive for COVID.

Students cannot attend in-person 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.

Q. What happens if I don't comply with NEIT's COVID requirements?

A. Efforts to keep the NEIT campus community safe could be compromised if students do not comply with the safe practices (testing, mask wearing, as applicable) required to limit the risk of COVID-19 transmission and could jeopardize on-ground educational opportunities for all students.

Failure to comply with the safe practices will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from NEIT. Also, see the answer to the question, "What will happen if I am required to test and I do not", above.

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.
- 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 50), located on the Student Website (link on top left of homepage).

NOTE: When communicating with NEIT's Contact Tracing Team via its email address, NEITtracing@neit.edu, use ONLY your NEIT email account.

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