

Rizza, Salvatore A.

From: Rizza, Salvatore A.
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 3:13 PM
To: families@lists.southernct.edu
Subject: Parent/Family Update: August 25th
Attachments: ATT00001.txt; ATT00001.txt

Dear Parents and Families,

We hope you are all well on this incredibly warm day. It has been our pleasure seeing students begin to return to campus the last two days and we are excited to begin a new semester tomorrow. As you read through the information below, we ask you to encourage your students to spend some time with this incredibly important information that they received. Remind them that it is their responsibility to familiarize themselves and understand what is expected of them as college students. And, of course, we are here to help them process any questions they may have. Encourage them to connect with the resources on campus early on!

In this communication you will find information regarding:

1. Resources
2. Email from the Office of the President
3. Camus COVID Update including:
 - a. COVID-19 Reporting
 - b. Study Spaces on Campus
 - c. Daily Self-Screening
 - d. Enforcement of Health and Safety Protocols
 - e. Reopening 2020

With the first day of classes tomorrow, we wish all of you the best as you continue to support your students in finding success and achieving their goals.

Sincerely,

Sal

Resources

We would also like to provide a number of links which have really good information that answers many of the questions you may have.

Helpful Links- <https://inside.southernct.edu/parent-family/helpful-links> , these are a number of helpful links that we have gathered specifically for parents/families that will be helpful now and in the future.

Resources- <https://inside.southernct.edu/inside-southern>, these is another general page filled with links that may be helpful!

Fall 2020 Reopening- <https://inside.southernct.edu/reopening>, this provides information on the reopening of campus for the fall semester.

Residence Life- <https://inside.southernct.edu/residence-life>, with so many questions regarding residence life, this may be a great place to find information!

Advising- <https://inside.southernct.edu/advising>, information regarding academic advising.

Sincerely,

Sal Rizza
Southern Connecticut State University
Director of Orientation, Transition & Family Engagement
Phone: (203) 392-5189
NODA Region IX Regional Coordinator

*From the Office of the President
Monday, August 24th*

Dear Students,

Welcome to the start of a new academic year at Southern!

By necessity, many things are very different as we reopen campus this week. But unlike in March, when the onset of COVID-19 caused a very quick pivot to remote teaching, we have had the summer to prepare to offer you the best learning experience possible, given the circumstances.

Whether you are a new or returning student, I encourage you to “own” this new experience as much as possible. By fully engaging in our online and on-ground class offerings, and utilizing the array of student support services available, you will ensure your own success and that of the faculty and staff who have worked long and hard to prepare for the new semester.

Similarly, the health protocols that we have put in place to help ensure your safety and that of the other members of our campus community are a shared responsibility. As our [public awareness signage](#) states: “My Mask Protects You. Your Mask Protects Me.”

For the good of everyone at Southern, please ensure that you observe social distancing and wear a mask at all times outdoors and indoors (excluding your room, if you are a residential student). If you see someone without a mask, offer them a gentle reminder and send them to the nearest PPE station (Buley circulation desk, Student Center Information Desk, Wintergreen Information Desk) if they have forgotten theirs.

Before you come to campus or leave your residence hall each day, please review this [self-screening checklist](#). If you are not feeling well, please stay home or in your room and seek medical care if needed. We are all responsible for protecting our own health and the health of our community. When in doubt – sit it out.

You should also know that our Student Affairs staff and University Police have been working with Mayor Justin Elicker's office, the city police and public health departments and other agencies on the return of our students to New Haven. Both Southern and the city share an equal concern regarding large, off campus events and parties.

As we have already seen at campuses across the country, these activities are super spreaders of COVID-19. As a result, several major universities have already closed barely a week after opening – and local leaders in Connecticut are calling for stricter guidelines and increased enforcement in our college towns.

Southern is deeply committed to protecting our community and our neighbors in greater New Haven. So I want you to be aware that any student, student organization, athletic or club sport team hosting a large off-campus gathering will be subject to both law enforcement action and an immediate interim suspension – leading to possible suspension or expulsion under our [COVID-19 enforcement policy](#).

Simply put, all of us have invested too much in the success of this new semester to see it thrown away by the actions of an uncaring and selfish few. It will take a collective effort for Southern will stay open until the Thanksgiving break, and I call on all of you to play your part in that responsibility.

You'll find more information about health and safety protocols and other aspects of our campus reopening in a downloadable summary that we have created for [students](#) in our [Reopening 2020 website](#). Please take the opportunity to read it and stay informed as we commence a semester like no other in our institution's 127-year history.

I know that this new campus environment is not what you envisioned as the setting for your college education. But if we take care of ourselves and each other, we will get through this challenging time together. And when we do, we will emerge from it all the stronger, with new insights, new skills and new ways to cope with adversity.

To paraphrase from my recent [Virtual Commencement remarks](#) to the Class of 2020: Years from now, I hope that we will recall this as more than the year when our lives were disrupted, but rather as the year when everything began to change, and we played a role in ensuring that it did – for the better.

Stay well, and stay Southern Strong.

Sincerely,

Joe Bertolino
President

Email to students, faculty and staff
Tuesday, August 25^t

As we commence the new semester, it's important to have the latest information about Southern's reopening plans and campus health and safety protocols. Starting today, we will present updates in a bi-weekly newsletter that will be circulated to students, faculty and staff via email. The items below are linked to the university's [Reopening 2020 website](#).



COVID-19 REPORTING

Any student, staff, or faculty member who tests positive through a medical provider off-campus or has been asked to quarantine as a result of a close contact exposure from a local public health department/tracer is required to notify the SCSU COVID-19 Coordinator of the positive test. This can be done by completing the COVID-19 reporting form linked from the [Reopening 2020 website](#).



STUDY SPACES ON CAMPUS

There will be a variety of locations around campus for students to study and engage in learning. Most of the study spaces and computer labs that are typically used for these purposes will also be available, albeit at reduced capacities to allow for appropriate physical distancing. [See where the study spaces are located](#).



DAILY SELF-SCREENING

Being attentive to your own physical health is important. Before you come to campus or leave your residence hall each day, please review this [self-screening checklist](#). If you are not feeling well, please stay home and seek medical care if needed. We are all responsible for protecting our own health and the health of our community. When in doubt – sit it out.



ENFORCEMENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

A critical element of our campus reopening is the observance of the university's health and safety protocols, pertaining to mask wearing, social distancing, testing and large gatherings.

Students should be aware that violating any of the [policies listed here](#) will result in referral to the Office of Student Conduct and potential interim suspension. Depending on the resolution of the case, full suspension, expulsion and/or law enforcement activity may follow.

For employees, a key element of health and safety is the wearing of face masks in offices, service lines and other common spaces. With limited exceptions, the wearing of masks is a requirement per the [Governor's Executive Order](#) and will be treated as a work rule. The university will take immediate action if employees do not comply with this requirement. Repeated instances of non-compliance will result in discipline up to and including discharge, in accordance with collective agreement, if the non-compliant employee is represented by a union.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions about any of these items, or other aspects of the University's reopening plans, you may submit them [here](#) or visit Southern's [Reopening 2020](#) website.