



REOPENING CAMPUS:

KEY POINTS FOR STUDENTS

AUGUST 2020



Southern Connecticut
State University



Southern Connecticut State University is excited to welcome you back to campus for the fall 2020 semester. In response to COVID-19, Southern has prepared a 4-Part Plan for reopening, which follows guidelines established by public health experts, the Office of Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont, and the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) system. The plan outlines strategies for:

1. The return of students to campus
2. Monitoring the health of students, faculty, and staff
3. Containing cases of COVID-19 that develop
4. And, should the course of the pandemic change, temporarily closing the physical campus and switching to remote/online education

You can read the entire plan at <https://inside.SouthernCT.edu/reopening>. In addition, this overview highlights key guidelines/procedures to help you and other members of the campus community stay well.

► Part 1: Your Return to Campus

- In the fall semester, about 36 percent of classes are being delivered on ground or through a hybrid approach; the remaining 64 percent are online.
- On campus, surgical-style masks or other face coverings (cloth masks) that completely cover the wearer's mouth are to be worn by all students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors, unless they have a medical exemption.
- Southern will provide you and other members of the campus community with five face coverings. Extra masks also will be available at central locations on campus if needed.
- Face coverings are required throughout campus, including all academic and administrative areas, in residence hall common areas, and outdoors when 6-feet social distancing guidelines cannot be maintained.
- **Instructional spaces** — including traditional classrooms, lecture halls, labs, and studios — have been reconfigured to meet social distancing guidelines calling for 6 feet of separation among students and faculty.
- Occupancy levels in **lounge spaces and open-seating areas** have been lowered, so you'll share these spaces with fewer students at any given time. These spaces also have been reconfigured to provide 6 feet of physical distance between people. In other campus areas typically used by groups of students — such as meeting rooms in the Student Center — spaces have been reconfigured as pods/cubicles to maximize social distancing.
- In **spaces with fixed seating** — such as Lyman Center and the Student Center theater — occupancy is being limited and seats cordoned off to adhere to 6-feet physical distancing guidelines.
- In **computer labs**, some workstations have been cordoned off with Plexiglas dividers and occupancy levels have been reduced to meet physical distancing guidelines.
- **Do you ride campus shuttle buses?** Southern is following guidelines established by the Department of Transportation. Measures include requiring riders to wear masks (unless they have a medical exemption), limiting passenger numbers/increasing routes, frequent cleaning, marking seats for social distancing, installing sneeze guards on smaller vehicles, etc.



Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Electrostatic sprayers and an EPA-approved disinfectant will be used daily to disinfect classrooms, computer labs, lecture halls, science labs, studios, and common areas. Public bathrooms will be disinfected twice a day.
- Hypochlorous Acid (HOCl) — the disinfectant used by Southern — is nontoxic, all-natural, and 100 percent safe for humans.
- Custodial staff are frequently wiping down high-touch points, including doorknobs/handles, elevator buttons, railings, light switches, etc. Additionally, hand sanitizer dispensers, disinfectant wipes, and/or cleaning solution are available in bathrooms, classrooms, office suites, and other shared facilities.



Eating Safely

- Southern is following the State of Connecticut's guidelines for restaurant reopenings in all dining-related facilities on campus.
- Seating capacity in dining areas has been reduced by 50 percent and tables have been reconfigured to meet social distancing guidelines. You'll find additional alternative seating areas. You are also encouraged to dine safely outdoors.
- Dining facilities have been reconfigured for 6-feet social distancing. There are separate designated entrances and exits, one-way foot traffic, and signs to guide you.
- A Certified Food Protection Manager will oversee dining safety, and Southern is completing Connecticut Business Reopening Self-Certification.
- Numerous other procedures are in place to help make dining safer. These include cleaning surfaces after every diner, the installation of Plexiglas barriers and sneeze guards, readily available hand sanitizer and disinfectant products, single-use condiments, elimination of buffet/self-service stations, disposable/rolled/packaged utensils, and the development of plans for online ordering.



Athletics

- Southern is following guidelines set by the NCAA Division II and the Northeast 10 Conference, the latter of which has suspended all conference-sponsored competition until Dec. 31, 2020.
- **Are you a student athlete?** If yes, you'll complete pre-activity screenings and tests. You'll also be asked to provide documentation of taking a RT-PCR COVID-19 test within 14 days of your arrival on campus.
- A wide variety of safety protocols are in place for student athletes, among them, social distancing (6 feet between players, 12 feet during workouts, 15 feet recommended for coaches); disinfecting surfaces and equipment before/after training; and limits on indoor/outdoor gatherings. Athletes will change/shower at home or in their residence halls.

Residence Halls

- If you are living on campus, you'll move in following a staggered, multi-day schedule to help facilitate social distancing. Plans are in place for students to move in their belongings a week before returning to campus.
- Numerous health protocols are in place. For example, everyone living on campus will complete a daily online self-screening questionnaire during their first seven days on campus.
- No more than two students will share a room, with occupancy reduced in some residence halls in comparison to past years.
- The students who share your on-campus room and/or apartment are considered your "family group/pod" at Southern. This means you are not required to wear face coverings or socially distance in your room/apartment.
- However, in all **residence halls common areas** such as lobbies, hallways, laundry rooms, utility rooms/kitchens, stairways, and elevators, you're asked to follow health guidelines designed to reduce spread of the virus: maintain 6-feet social distancing, wear face





masks/coverings, reduce elevator capacity, follow directional arrows in stairways as marked, etc.

- The number of visitors allowed in rooms/apartments also has been limited, again, to meet physical distancing guidelines.
- If you have a greater risk of complications from COVID-19, you can request accommodations from the Disability Resource Center.

Travel

- Members of the campus community are asked to avoid unnecessary international and domestic travel.
- Students are prohibited from studying abroad, and all faculty-led study abroad programming for fall 2020 has been canceled. University-sanctioned domestic travel for students will be permitted only under special circumstances and requires approval by Tracy Tyree, vice president for student affairs.
- University-sanctioned domestic and international travel is not permitted for faculty, staff, and management.
- **International students** with student (F/J) visas can pursue academic studies in person if they currently reside in the U.S. or are able to secure visas to enter the U.S. They are subject to applicable self-isolation guidelines, testing, and contact tracing measures.



► Part 2: *Monitoring the Health of the Campus Community*

Testing of Residential Students

- If you're living on campus this fall, you're required to **submit a negative** COVID-19 test result to the University within 14 days before you arrive on campus.
- If you **test positive before arriving**, you must notify Student Health Services and will not be cleared to arrive on campus until 10 days without symptoms from the date of the test.
- If you're coming to Connecticut from **out of state**, you are required to submit a negative COVID-19 test result to the University as close as possible to the time you arrive on campus.
 - Are you coming from a “non-hotspot” declared (as of 7/28/20) state? If so, you can obtain the initial pre-arrival test and won't need to quarantine.
 - Are you coming from a “hotspot” declared (as of 7/28/20) state? If so, you should be tested before you arrive and then quarantine for 14 days. You should also complete the state Department of Public Health's travel advisory form [\[https://appengine.egov.com/apps/ct/DPH/Connecticut-Travel-Health-Form\]](https://appengine.egov.com/apps/ct/DPH/Connecticut-Travel-Health-Form).
- If you're unable to obtain a COVID-19 test before you arrive because of financial, insurance, or other circumstances, Southern will provide an opportunity for you to be tested on campus during days designated for dropping off belongings.
- If you're living on campus, you'll be required to submit a daily self-screening report for the first seven days after you arrive on campus.



Ongoing Testing

Are You Symptomatic?

- If you are, you should be tested through Student Health Services or your own health care provider.
- You'll be required to quarantine until the test results are available.
- If the test result is negative, you'll be removed from quarantine.
- If the test result is positive, you'll be required to self-isolate and the University will begin contact tracing.



Are You Asymptomatic?

- In the first week of classes, Southern will test all residential and non-residential students from out of state.
- Southern will also test 5 to 10 percent of students living in each residence hall on a weekly basis.
- Student Health Services will periodically test asymptomatic students and staff living in university housing.
- If you're tested, you will be notified of your results. If your test is positive, you'll be required to self-isolate at a private residence off campus or in university isolation housing, and contact tracing will begin.

Who is Coordinating the University's COVID-19 Response Plan?

The campus COVID-19 coordinator is responsible for:

- overseeing the plans for testing
- implementing the University's plan for containing any cases of the virus that may develop
- serving as a campus expert and resource around public and community health

► Part 3: Containing COVID-19 Cases that Develop



Southern will have three levels of quarantine and isolation:

- quarantine
- isolation-asymptomatic
- isolation-symptomatic

If you are in **quarantine** or **self-isolation asymptomatic**, you will be required to complete a daily symptom check-in.

If you are in **residential isolation-symptomatic**, you will be required to have a daily telehealth appointment with Student Health Services to track your symptoms.

If you are in **self-isolation** off campus, you will be required to submit daily self-monitoring check-ins to the COVID-19 coordinator.

Isolation

- If you have a positive COVID-19 test result, you will be required to self-isolate until 10 days have passed with no symptoms from the date of the test.
- Southern has set aside space in the residence halls for isolating students in certain circumstances.
- If you're not living on campus, you will be required to self-isolate at your home or other private residence.
- If you're living on campus, you will either self-isolate at your home or other private residence off campus, or in the University's designated isolation space in the residence halls.



Quarantine

- If you've been in close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, you'll be required to be tested and quarantine for a 14-day period from your last exposure to the person who tested positive.
- Residential students who are required to quarantine may be broken into "family groups/pods," based on the sharing of bathrooms.
- The University has set aside space in the residence halls for students to quarantine when necessary.
- If you live off campus, you will be required to quarantine at your home or other private residence.

Contact Tracing

A trained team of contact tracers will keep track of individuals who need to be monitored, monitor them daily for symptoms, and connect them to additional medical care when necessary.

Partnering with Regional Health Care Facilities

Southern Connecticut State University has strong relationships with the Yale New Haven Health System, Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center, Hartford HealthCare, and most other healthcare organizations in the state of Connecticut where we collaborate to train students for clinical careers.

In the event that our campus experience begins to trend toward a surge (criteria to be determined), we will communicate directly with three key providers:

- Director of Health, New Haven Department of Public Health
- Office of the Chief Operating Officer, Yale New Haven Health
- Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center

► Part 4: Plan for Shutdown

Circumstances Warranting a Campus Shutdown

- Southern will look to the Department of Public Health, the CDC, the State of Connecticut, the CSCU system, and Southern's Student Health Services for guidance on a potential wider health threat from COVID-19.
- Southern would begin a physical shutdown of campus under guidance of the CSCU system in several situations, most notably, the threat of a significant spread of the virus among the campus community.
- Other scenarios potentially leading to a physical shutdown of campus include on-campus quarantine and isolation spaces nearing capacity; the state's or region's need for housing/facilities to manage a resurgence of the virus; and/or a directive by the CSCU System Board of Regents or the Office of the Connecticut Governor.

Continuity of Instruction in Case of Shutdown

Your Southern education will continue — even if a resurgence of the virus leads to a physical closure of campus. Information on a transition to remote learning can be read in the **4-Part Plan**. Here's an overview:

- If the SCSU President's Leadership Team decides to close the physical campus and transition to all-online education, Southern will alert you and all other students, faculty, and staff within 24 hours.
- The announcement will be made through emails, texts, and on Southern's website.
- With that notice, all previously on-ground and hybrid courses will switch to fully online.
- Additional guidance will be provided to students enrolled in courses slated to meet within the 24-hour notification window.
- Students who don't have the necessary equipment to support online learning can borrow a laptop for the remainder of the semester through a plan developed by the Office of Information Technology.
- Should campus close, Buley Library and student support offices will move to virtual programs and processes.
- Once Southern moves to a fully online mode of teaching, the rest of the semester will remain online. If the quarantining and isolating spaces are near capacity, the residence halls will be shut down and students will be notified that they have to leave campus. Southern will work with students if getting home is difficult (e.g., international students) or if campus housing is their primary residence. Students who are in isolation or quarantine will remain on campus until it is safe to go home.

