

August 11, 2020

Dear UConn Students,

Student Health and Wellness (SHaW) is looking forward to welcoming you back to UConn this fall. As the Medical Director of SHaW, my team and I are focusing on the health and safety of all of the members of our community. We are now in the final stages of preparations for welcoming you back. This letter is intended to provide details to you and your family on the health and safety plans this fall.

SHaW- Medical Care has been closely monitoring updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and has been working in collaboration with our local and state departments of public health regarding COVID-19 as we operationalize our plans to support our fall opening. As a result, we developed a multifaceted approach for how to monitor the health of our community. Below are some of the specifics which apply to both graduate and undergraduate students.

### Testing Requirements:

**Storrs Residential Students:** All Storrs residential students will be tested for COVID-19 upon arrival to campus. SHaW will be set-up in the same location where you will be assigned for your Residential Life Move-In process. The COVID-19 test will be collected in coordination with your residential life check-in. You do not need to do anything separate from your residential move-in process. Arrival testing will be followed by a 14 day residential self-quarantine.

**Stamford Residential Students:** All Stamford residential students will be tested for COVID-19 soon after arrival to campus. UConn has arranged for on-site testing for August 18, 2020. Stamford residential students will receive detailed instructions for how and when to obtain the test by August 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Residential Self-Quarantine (August 14-30):** Residential students on the Storrs campus, as well as all students arriving from a state on the [CT Travel Advisory List](#), are required to self-quarantine for 14 days:

- Students will electronically submit a daily symptom survey to SHaW – Medical Care.
- Students will remain in their residence halls until they receive a negative test result for approximately 2-3 days.
- Asymptomatic students will be allowed to leave their residence to pick up meals from designated dining halls.

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- Students will be allowed to engage in limited outdoor activities with other members of their designated family pods starting on August 20<sup>th</sup>.
- No guests will be allowed in the residence halls during residential quarantine.

### Students from states under the travel advisory:

- Students have been directed to be tested within 14 days of travel.
  - Positive COVID-19 PCR test result – Do not travel to Connecticut until you receive medical release from isolation.
  - Negative COVID-19 PCR – 14 day self-quarantine after arrival to Connecticut.
    - A negative test does not change the self-quarantine requirement.
- Residential students from states under the travel advisory will be tested again upon arrival and will be quarantined in separate residential housing for the 14 day residential quarantine period before moving into their previously assigned residential housing.
- Off-campus students traveling to UConn for in-person learning from CT Travel Advisory states ([CT Travel Advisory List](#)) will need to participate in testing and surveillance processes as instructed by SHaW. As a reminder, upon coming to Connecticut, you are required to complete an on-line travel health form within 24-hours of arrival. You can find that form at [ct.gov/travelform](#).
- One family member is permitted to assist a student during move in. Families traveling from states indicated on the CT travel advisory should spend less than 24 hours in CT. If overnight stays are necessary, families should have a test prior to arrival (per the “unable to quarantine” provision in the Advisory) and limit their activities to those required for moving students into their residential facilities, on or off campus.

**Off-Campus and Commuter Students (Storrs and Regional Campuses):** Off-campus and commuter students, both graduate and undergraduate, for all UConn campuses who are registered for *in-person instruction or who will be regularly working or doing research on campus* are required to submit verification of a COVID-19 negative test result prior to attending in person classes. This test must be collected within 14 days of the start of classes, which for most students the 14 day period begins on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

The university is making COVID-19 PCR testing available through a mail-in option at no cost. An email will be sent to this email address between August 13–16 with information on how to obtain testing through our partner, Vault Medical. Students may also obtain testing on their own at their own expense and upload the results through the [SHaW Patient Portal](#).

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Any student who tests test positive will need to submit a medical clearance from isolation form to SHaW prior to coming to campus.

UConn enforces Governor Lamont's [Executive Order 7III](#). We will enforce the Governor's Executive order and our Student Code of Conduct with mindfulness towards the unique health and safety implications of endangering behaviors to our campus community in the context of this pandemic.

**Residential Student On-Going Testing (Surveillance Testing):** In addition, as is required by Connecticut regulations, there will be weekly testing of selected students who are not symptomatic. Students will receive notifications when they need to obtain a COVID-19 test. The test will be provided by SHaW in the newly refitted field house testing site. Specific instructions for how and where to obtain that test will be sent to selected students each week. There will also be additional surveillance testing through environmental monitoring strategies, which may guide additional testing efforts.

**Symptomatic Testing:** Any student who experiences symptoms of COVID-19 should seek immediate medical evaluation and testing before engaging with the campus community. Use the [CDC Self-Checker](#) for a list of symptoms and to help you make decisions and seek appropriate medical care.

### **Additional Health and Safety Measures:**

**Self-Isolation:** If you are diagnosed or presumed positive for COVID-19, you will be recommended to self-isolate at home. For those Storrs Campus residential students who cannot self-isolate at home, they will be placed in self-isolation in one of the dedicated reserved isolation spaces on campus. Individuals in self-isolation must remove themselves from face-to-face interactions with others until they are recovered. SHaW will provide daily telemedicine visits for Storrs students in isolation. Food will be delivered by UConn Dining Services for Storrs based residential students in isolation.

**Contact Tracing and Close Contacts:** The timely notification of close contacts of individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 is a crucial strategy in limiting the spread of disease on campus. Close contacts are defined as household members and anyone who was closer than 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes. Close contacts will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days following the last point of contact. Students in self-quarantine will be supported by SHaW-Medical Care or their local health departments.

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**Communication:** All of these strategies rely on the SHaW Medical Care team being able to contact you. Notifications for on-going testing will be sent by text and email that will link to a secure message in your patient portal. SHaW will call you directly if you test positive for COVID-19 or have been identified as a “close contact.” SHaW will be here to support you in the event that either of those situations occur. Responding to our communications will help keep you and our community safe.

Any **Storrs student** who needs to transition to an online format due to being directed to self-isolate or self-quarantine should email the [Dean of Students Office](#) to request instructor notification. The Dean of Students will notify the instructors and work with the student to provide support when life circumstances are impacting their ability to focus on courses and/or their UConn experience.

Any **Regional campus student** who needs to transition to an online format due to being directed to self-isolate or self-quarantine should email the Student Services staff at their home campus to request instructor notification. The Students Services staff will notify the instructors and work with the student to provide support when life circumstances are impacting their ability to focus on courses and/or their UConn experience.

For more detailed information and additional questions, SHaW has provided [FAQs](#) on our website. SHaW also has created a resource page for [Managing Mental Health](#) during the pandemic.

The health of our campus fundamentally depends on our commitment to the behaviors that will continue to keep our community safe. In addition to the use of a deliberate testing strategy, physical distancing, the use of facemasks and face coverings along with regular hand washing are highly effective ways to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

Finally, there is a Town Hall for Parents with President Katsouleas on August 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm EST. We hope you will encourage your parents or guardians to attend. Here is the link to join the meeting [Parent Town Hall Meeting](#).

Best Regards,

Ellyssa Eror, MD  
Medical Director, Student Health and Wellness

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