

SUNY COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY SURVEILLANCE TESTING PLAN

Spring Semester 2021

Effective: 1 February 2021

Since the onset of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the State University of New York College of Optometry has implemented and maintained a comprehensive screening, testing, case management and contact tracing program consistent with the guidance of the CDC, NYSDOH, SUNY System and executive orders issued by Governor Cuomo.

Our COVID protection program for the College community is based on: (1) Screening prior to entry to campus; (2) Social Distancing; (3) Aggressive Sanitization; (4) Use of Appropriate PPE; (4) Surveillance Pool-Testing and (5) Rapid Testing as appropriate.

Effective 1 February 2021, the College will increase the frequency of its **mandatory Surveillance Pool Testing to a weekly basis** for all students, faculty, residents and staff who are on-campus on a regular basis. A “regular basis” is defined as once per week or more.

Surveillance Testing Plan

- *Who:* All students, faculty, residents and staff who are on campus one day per week or more are required to be pool-tested weekly*.
 - All students will begin to be tested on a weekly basis the week of February 1st. During mid-terms and final examination periods, students in the first three years of the professional degree program are not required to be tested as there are no-on campus requirements.
 - All staff and faculty will be tested on a weekly basis starting February 8th.
- *Location:* All Surveillance Pool Testing will be conducted in the Schwarz Theater on the basement level. Check-in will occur in the theater lobby with specimen collection (swab) stations located in the theater itself.
- *Dates & Times:* The Testing Center will be open three days per week from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. One week the schedule will be Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, and the alternate week will be Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Hours and/or days may be expanded or modified as needed.
- *Scheduling:* There are no appointments. All students, faculty, residents and staff are responsible for getting tested during the hours of operation. Testing is on a first-come, first-served basis.
- *Results:* If a pool test returns positive results, PCR testing of the individual samples will also be conducted using the SUNY Upstate Medical University COVID-19 Testing Program. Individuals identified as being in a positive pool, will be notified by the COVID Coordinators via email and must quarantine until the PCR results are completed (usually 24 – 48 hours). Once the positive individual is identified by PCR testing of all the samples in the pool, contact tracing within the SUNY community will be performed.

We are confident that this plan will allow us to carefully monitor the community, isolate cases, and contain outbreaks.

***Note:** 1) If you have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 in the last 90 days or had bloodwork in the last 90 days showing presence of antibodies, you are excused from pool testing **until the date provided to you by the COVID Coordinators**. 2) We strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated when possible, however, receiving the COVID-19 vaccine DOES NOT EXCLUDE you from pool surveillance testing.