

*Office of Student Affairs*

August 31, 2020



UNIVERSITY OF  
NEW ENGLAND

INNOVATION FOR A HEALTHIER PLANET

Dear Nor'easters,

I write today with a message I hoped I would not have to pen. It brings me great disappointment to share that we now have a total of three undergraduate students who have tested positive for COVID-19 and another 22 individuals currently under quarantine due to their exposure to one of the three positive cases. These all stem from one individual and demonstrate how quickly the virus can spread.

Many of those currently under quarantine find themselves there because they made a choice to gather, unmasked and not distanced. The easiest of practices were completely disregarded, and the consequence of that choice is now playing out. Perhaps more disturbing is that some of the students under quarantine did not participate in that gathering. The carelessness of some community members has had a direct impact on others.

I stated previously that our ability to stay on campus this semester lies in the collective hands of our community. We are not off to a good start, and as a result there will be consequences. Several students involved in this situation will be subjected to a conduct review. And students who blatantly violate the policies that have been put in place to protect the health of the community will also face consequences as severe as suspension from the campus. Simply stated: If you lack the fortitude and maturity to live on and around our campuses as you are required to this semester, this isn't the place for you.

Nor'easters, if we cannot quickly change course, we could lose our shot at an in-person semester, a consequence that will impact our entire community of students, faculty, and professional staff. The overwhelming majority of you don't want that to happen, nor do I. I hope that this message conveys just how critical it is that behavior be modified so that we can all stay healthy together on our campuses.

Jen DeBurro

*Dean of Students and Assistant Provost for Student Affairs*