

Office of Student Health Services

January 21, 2021



UNIVERSITY OF
NEW ENGLAND

INNOVATION FOR A HEALTHIER PLANET

Dear Students,

As you know, in an effort to help mitigate community transmission of the coronavirus on campus, UNE will augment its current safety measures described in the UNE Onward plan by launching a new surveillance testing program on Monday, Jan. 25, through which we will conduct regularly scheduled, voluntary COVID-19 testing of our on-campus populations. Participation in this program does not prevent you from requesting an on-demand COVID-19 test; you may still request a test at any time you wish.

All on-campus undergraduate and graduate students have been randomly divided into four cohorts, each of which will be offered an opportunity to test every four weeks. You have been assigned to Testing Cohort [X] on the [City] Campus. The weeks when you will be offered a COVID-19 test are listed below in the Testing Schedule section.

Please note that you may not switch to a different cohort or to a different campus. If you are unable to test during your cohort's week on your assigned campus, you will need to wait until the next time your cohort is invited to test, or you may opt to request an on-demand test.

Appointments are available Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Ludke Auditorium on the Portland Campus and Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Campus Center track on the Biddeford Campus. Testing can be accessed in the Student Health Center on the Biddeford Campus for those who have a mobility issue that will limit their access to the track. Please call to make an appointment if this accommodation is needed (207) 602-2358.

Please note that the sign-up process for on-campus testing has changed. The University will no longer be using the Mediat portal for COVID-19 test scheduling. Rather, for all future appointments (including those offered under this program as well as those you may request on demand), please use the appropriate scheduling portal below:

Portland Campus: uneportlandtesting.youcanbook.me

Biddeford Campus: unebiddefordtesting.youcanbook.me

What You Should Know

- Participation in UNE's surveillance testing is voluntary.
- By voluntarily agreeing to participate in testing, you consent to a testing process that includes third-party processing and being informed of a positive COVID test by a member of the Student Health Services team.
- If you are identified by UNE's contact tracers as a close contact of an infected individual on campus, you will be offered a test regardless of whether or not it is your cohort's week to test.
- You should not participate in testing during your designated week if you are feeling unwell or believe you have been exposed to COVID-19. Under such circumstances, you are asked to contact your primary care physician or the Student Health Center.
- If you have tested positive at any point in the three months preceding your test, even if you have been cleared to return to school, please do NOT take a test.
- If you have been vaccinated for COVID-19, please DO take a test, if you wish.

What To Expect:

- At a station outside of the building, you will be asked to blow your nose and wash/sanitize your hands.
- You will proceed to a reception station where you will verify your appointment, answer screening questions, and have your temperature taken. (This information will not be recorded.)
- You will pick up your test kit and conduct your own lower nasal swab test and place the swab in a test tube.
- You will bring the test tube to a print station, where someone will collect and affix a label to your test tube.
- You will exit the building and proceed with your day.
- If your result is negative, you will receive an email within 24 to 48 hours prompting you to finish the registration process to access your test results. If your result is positive, you will receive a phone call from the medical director of Student Health Services.

Testing Schedule

Cohort 1: Weeks of 1/25-28, 2/22-25, 3/22-25, 4/19-22

Cohort 2: Weeks of 2/1-4, 3/1-4, 3/29-4/1, 4/26-29

Cohort 3: Weeks of 2/8-11, 3/8-11, 4/5-8, 5/3-6

Cohort 4: Weeks of 2/15-18, 3/15-18, 4/12-15

Similar to our practice in the fall, you will be provided the opportunity to sign up for on-demand testing during the week preceding the conclusion of the semester. This will ensure compliance with any regulations in states you return to, while also offering peace of mind that you have been tested before returning home to family.

We ask that you approach the testing procedure with kindness and patience. The people who are staffing the various testing stations are volunteering their time, and it is a complicated process.

It is our hope that this testing program will help to identify any potential outbreaks or clusters of infection among our campus populations that may guide our efforts in more targeted surveillance testing. We will continue to assess and readjust components of the program in the coming weeks, as necessary. We know we must remain vigilant in our efforts to have another successful semester even as the new vaccines become more widely available. Thank you for your patience with the process and for considering your participation.

Sincerely,

Paul Berkner, D.O., FAAP
Medical Director, Student Health Services