



Student Affairs

This message has been approved for distribution as part of Daemen College's COVID-19 official response.

August 19, 2020

Dear Community Members:

As you know from the many messages that have been sent out, as part of Daemen's extensive COVID-19 reopening, the college is testing all community members before the start of the semester. This is to ensure that individuals who may be carriers, but do not know it, are not inadvertently spreading it to others on campus. We also have a detailed contact tracing program designed to notify campus community members who might have been exposed to an individual who tests positive.

Through these efforts, we learned today that one of our non-residential students (meaning that the individual does not live in any campus housing) received a positive test today from our testing clinic held on campus this past Friday, August 10, 2020. Per New York State and Daemen protocol, the Erie County Department of Health has been notified and will utilize the NYS contact tracing program to reach out to individuals if needed.

Our CHIP Center has reached out to the student who remains asymptomatic, is doing well, and will be following guidance from the CHIP Center and the Erie County DOH. As a point of reference, individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 will not be permitted to return to campus until after 10 days of no symptoms and a new COVID test. It was expected that this pandemic would affect member(s) of our campus community at some point as it did during the spring 2020 semester. However, the policies and procedures we have implemented have been designed to do just this – identify cases before other individuals are exposed. So I am pleased that our extensive testing program is working to do this.

Please note that the definition for exposure where someone is at risk is defined by the CDC as 15 minutes or more of contact with an individual from less than 6 feet away and without proper PPE (by either party). Through the college's own internal contact tracing system, we will notify individuals who might have been exposed, if necessary. In general, no news is good news. This is why we will **STRICTLY ENFORCE** PPE use on campus. It is our best bet to prevent the spread of COVID across campus.

A World of Opportunity



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We remind all campus community members of the following guidelines for monitoring your health:

- If you have a fever (100.4°F/38°C or higher), cough, or have trouble breathing, take the following precautions. First, contact your medical provider. Call ahead before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room.
- Practice physical distancing (staying at least 6 feet away from others) while wearing appropriate PPE. (A recent study suggests that neck gaiters and bandanas are the LEAST effective coverings to use so stick with cloth or disposal face coverings.)
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Clean your hands often by washing them with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% to 95% alcohol immediately after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.
- Disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces (example: cell phone).

The college has already tested over 550 community members (with one positive test) and will continue testing this weekend more than 550 community members. We will be continuing to mandate PPE use, while cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces and areas of the campus regularly. We will also continue to update the campus as there is a need to do so while ensuring the protection of the privacy of all of our community members. To that end, please note that if we have a community member who has not been on campus at any time and notifies us of a positive test, we will not be sending out a notice to the campus community in order to protect their privacy. Notifications like this will go out only as a duty to inform when there is a possibility of exposure

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