

NEWS RELEASE

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SUNY ONEONTA'S STAGGERED START TO HELP MINIMIZE COVID SPREAD

ONEONTA, N.Y. – This week, SUNY Oneonta students will begin to move onto campus. Instead of students and families coming to campus all at the same time, they are scheduled to arrive at designated times throughout this week.

“This will manage population density as students return to campus and lessen the chance of spreading COVID,” said Lachlan Squair, chief facilities planning and safety officer. “Our aim is to keep the campus community, and the larger community, safe.”

Earlier this summer, the college had its plan for the fall semester approved by SUNY and Gov. Cuomo. The plan limits person-to-person contact and in-person gatherings whenever possible, changing the college calendar, increasing cleaning, and disinfecting, and conducting campus-wide monitoring measures. Students were required to self-quarantine at home for seven days prior to their arrival on campus. The length of quarantine was extended if a student was coming from a state listed on the New York State travel advisory list or another country.

According to Squair, only one family member or friend per student will be allowed in the residence halls to help with move-in. Also, the number of students coming to campus is reduced this semester. He says many students have opted to remain at home and complete their classes online.

“This move-in looks very different from prior years. The numbers are greatly reduced,” said Squair.

If a student is suspected of or found to be positive for the virus, Squair says the college has reserved two residence halls for quarantine and isolation.

In addition to the college's staggered move-in, the college will delay its Pass Through the Pillars event for new students. Restrictions on public gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the inability to create a comparable experience for those students who choose not to come to campus this fall has made it impossible to create a safe and equitable program for the entire first-year population at this time.

"We are doing everything we can to ensure the safest opening possible," said Squair. "The process has been running smoothly and we have no problems to report."

For information on SUNY Oneonta's protocols, visit <https://suny.oneonta.edu/fall-2020-re-start-plan>.