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NEWS RELEASE

August 27, 2020

SUNY ONEONTA SEES SIX NEW CASES OF COVID-19

ONEONTA, N.Y. – Overnight and this morning, SUNY Oneonta learned that six more students have tested positive for COVID-19. All six are isolating off campus. Consistent with New York State Department of Health guidance, the college will perform extra cleaning of any space on campus where an affected student has spent time.

Since the start of the fall semester on Monday, there have been 13 confirmed cases within the SUNY Oneonta campus community. Another 29 students are quarantining on campus because they have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

The Otsego County Department of Health (DOH) is conducting contact tracing of students who test positive for COVID-19. The DOH will attempt to notify others with whom the affected students may have had close contact. Any affected student can only resume normal activities upon approval of the DOH.

“As the college learns of situations that may compromise the health of our campus or the greater Oneonta community, we will act swiftly to hold individuals and organizations accountable,” said President Barbara Morris. “Our Office of Community Standards has opened investigations regarding reports of social gatherings alleged to have violated City of Oneonta ordinances or college policies. The college will take disciplinary action against any student or student organization that violates the student code of conduct.”

The college has interim suspended a sorority that allegedly violated the Greek Code of Conduct. Also, in response to complaints about off campus Greek rush parties, this afternoon the college suspended all rush and recruitment events — both on and off campus — until further notice. Any fraternity or sorority chapter that continues to host off-campus events will face suspension.

To step up containment measures, SUNY is helping the college develop a plan that will allow testing of all campus employees and students. It is expected that these tests will begin in stages tomorrow.