

SUNY ONEONTA ADMINISTERS 10,000TH COVID TEST OF 2021

Overall Positivity Rate Remains Under One Percent

ONEONTA, N.Y. – Today, the COVID testing center at SUNY Oneonta administered its 10,000th pool test for COVID since opening Jan. 18 in preparation for the spring semester. Pool testing results show the overall positivity rate has fallen from .74 percent in late January to .19 percent Feb. 19. Repeated testing enables college officials to detect possible spikes in COVID infections and respond in real-time to protect the campus community. Acting President Dennis Craig made the announcement in a [video shared campus-wide](#) this afternoon, calling it a milestone in the college’s fight against COVID.

“Our number one priority in reopening was protecting the health of each and every member of the SUNY Oneonta community. Our infection rate has remained well under 1 percent so far this semester because of prior planning with community leaders, organizational agility and dedication shared across our campus to get tested weekly,” Acting President Dennis Craig said. “Thanks to each of you who have made getting a COVID test part of your routine. Committing to test weekly shows that slowing the spread takes all of us doing our part.”

Following mandatory pre-testing before the start of the spring semester, SUNY Oneonta students who come to campus have been required to test weekly, as have campus employees. To ensure social distancing and accommodate high volume safety, the college set up a testing center in the largest space on campus, the Alumni Field House.

Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Tracey Ranieri oversees the testing center. She credits members of her staff, the college’s janitorial staff and other volunteers for making testing convenient.

“We’ve quickly gotten into a rhythm. Custodial staff clean our Field House before testing each week. Our proctors coach students, faculty and staff through test registration and then the test itself. People are in and out in a matter of minutes,” she said. “I’d be surprised if there’s an

easier way to get a COVID test and thanks to SUNY's infrastructure, the results come back quickly, too."

SUNY Upstate Medical in Syracuse processes SUNY Oneonta's pool tests. Those who test usually receive their results within 48-72 hours.

Oneonta Mayor Gary Herzig said the benefits of the college's testing center extend beyond campus to the City of Oneonta. (Related: [Oneonta Mayor shares appreciation](#) for SUNY Oneonta's testing efforts.)

"I greatly appreciate SUNY Oneonta's commitment to testing. The college's comprehensive testing program is contributing to the health and well-being of our entire community," he said.