

COVID-19 Campus Re-Opening, Fall 2020

Student Acknowledgement of Rights and Responsibilities

Binghamton University has put in place special operating policies and procedures to comply with new public health standards and guidelines related to COVID-19. The University's primary focus in these policies is to protect the health and safety of students, faculty and staff while pursuing the educational mission of the University. Every member of the University community shares a responsibility to comply with these policies and procedures and to conform with state and local health directives. The purpose of this document is to summarize and have students acknowledge student rights and responsibilities related to COVID-19. Further, this document informs students of the possible consequences of non-compliance and risks from the possible exposure from other members of the campus community, visitors to the campus and any off campus activities. All students must acknowledge this document on or before September 1, 2020 as a condition to maintaining their course registration.

All students have the right to:

1. Expect that all community members will act in a manner that demonstrates respect and consideration for the health and safety of all community members.
2. Have reasonable measures be taken by the University to help protect the health and safety of all and to minimize the potential spread of COVID-19.
3. Receive timely information, from University officials relating to changes in public health guidance and directives and be provided guidance and instructions from the University as public health guidelines evolve.
4. Access services from University departments and participate in activities in a manner that allows for proper social distancing.
5. Report any community member who is not complying with the guidelines issued by health officials and the University or whose behaviors create a health and safety hazard and to be free of any retaliation as a result of reporting a violation.
6. Expect that University officials will take reasonable steps to address actions of students, staff, and faculty who do not comply with guidelines set forth by public health officials or the University.
7. Be free of discrimination and stigma due to illness status or suspected illness.
8. Have access to online delivery of coursework at no additional cost wherever technically feasible, if it is recommended that they do not participate in in-person classes due to the presence of symptoms or confirmed COVID-19.
9. Be provided a clear rationale for termination of housing or other loss of privileges for failing to comply with guidelines or instructions set forth by the University.

Responsibilities

All students have the following responsibilities:

1. To understand and follow guidelines and directives set forth by the University or public health officials relating to COVID-19 as set forth at

<https://www.binghamton.edu/restarting-binghamton/index.html>. These may include, but are not limited to:

- a. social distancing directives
 - b. limitations on the number of people in gatherings
 - c. wearing a face covering wherever required
 - d. participating in COVID-19 diagnostic and surveillance testing (including before or upon arrival to campus) as required
 - e. prompt and truthful response to contact tracing inquiries
 - f. compliance with disinfection protocols
 - g. adhering to quarantine/isolation requirements
 - h. compliance with the no-guest policy
2. Monitor potential symptoms of COVID-19 infection daily through the questionnaire provided on the Binghamton portal for self-monitoring.
 3. Honestly respond to and answer questions from University or New York State officials performing case investigation and contact tracing.
 4. Notify Decker Student Health Services Center of suspected symptoms or confirmed illness and follow instructions provided by University or other health officials. Follow-up with their healthcare provider as necessary.
 5. Comply with any de-densifying efforts needed on campus due to COVID or other public health emergency, including, but not limited to, the relocation of all or some residential students to alternative housing.
 6. To follow medical instructions, cooperate and complete treatment as ordered.
 7. To self-quarantine or self-isolate as recommended by health officials or University officials, which may require being temporarily relocated.

Failure to Comply

On-campus residing students who fail to comply with the responsibilities noted in this document and/or in University policies adopted as a result of COVID-19 may be administratively removed from University housing. Such action will ordinarily be taken only after prior warning; however, the University reserves the right to remove a student from housing on the basis of a single substantial and intentional violation of the COVID-19 related safety measures. Students administratively removed from housing will not be considered in good standing as pertains to eligibility for credits or refunds and will be financially liable for housing and meal plan, subject to meal plan policy, for the entire academic year.

Any student (on or off-campus residing) who fails to comply with the responsibilities noted in the document and/or in University policies adopted as a result of COVID-19 may be denied the opportunity to attend in-person classes. Such action will generally be taken only after prior warning; however, the University reserves the right to remove a student from in-person classes on the basis of a single substantial and intentional violation of COVID-19 related safety measures.

Independent of this document, faculty retain their inherent right to impose academic penalties upon students who fail to comply with classroom expectations.

Students who fail to follow state and local public health directives off-campus may also be subject to charges under the Rules of Student Conduct on the basis that their behavior involves endangering behavior that constitutes a threat to the personal safety of others.

Assumption of Risk

Binghamton is providing students with options to maximize their ability to take classes online and to minimize the need to be on campus. Binghamton is further providing students the opportunity to cancel on-campus housing. In acknowledging this document, students also acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assume the risk that they may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by choosing to be on campus. Students further acknowledge that infection may result in serious illness and that people of all ages have died from COVID-19.