

August 9, 2021

Dear Cortland landlord,

We are about to begin another semester at SUNY Cortland and I am again reaching out to ask for your help in keeping our students and the greater Cortland community safe from COVID-19.

The university's [Fall 2021 Guidance](#) is available online and will be regularly updated throughout the semester. Please know SUNY Cortland is currently requiring all students who live on campus be vaccinated against COVID-19. When the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) fully approves one of the COVID-19 vaccines, SUNY Cortland will require all students to be vaccinated. We anticipate this will happen early in the semester, possibly by Labor Day.

Still, the potential spread of the Delta variant means we will remain vigilant in asking our students to participate in measures that will keep them and our neighbors in the community safe. As of August 3, 2021, SUNY Cortland is requiring all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, to wear face coverings in indoor spaces on campus. Other steps the campus is taking, including surveillance testing, recommendations for symptomatic individuals and quarantine and isolation, are outlined in the Fall 2021 Guidance.

Please coordinate your tenants' return to avoid several families arriving at once. SUNY Cortland will continue to move its students into residence halls over an extended period — four days rather than the typical two — to reduce opportunities for contact. We encourage you to consider speaking with your tenants about using the same approach.

Join us in reminding your tenants of their responsibilities to the community, in particular regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Wearing masks, physical distancing and not attending or hosting large social gatherings are crucial to the continued safety of our community. Allowing large gatherings at off-campus properties will, as we have seen, only make the situation worse and students may face conduct action that could impact their status as a student.

Consider providing not-yet-vaccinated international students and students who live in non-contiguous states an opportunity to return early. These students may be seeking a place to quarantine for 10 days before the start of classes. The university has recommended that not-yet-vaccinated students complete this quarantine at home but some may request to do so in Cortland. Also know that off-campus students who test positive for COVID-19 during the semester will need to isolate at home or their off-campus residence for 10 days.

SUNY Cortland's plan for the upcoming semester is subject to change pending new guidance from local, state and national health authorities. The university will inform students of any changes to city ordinances that could impact them and we ask you as landlords to also share this information with them.

Thank you for your help in keeping our community safe. It is in all our best interests to take whatever measures we can to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Kevin Pristash
Director, SUNY Cortland Campus Activities Office