Community Commitment Acknowledgement for Students who will participate in On-campus Programming for the Fall Semester

Keene State College is looking forward to welcoming you back to our campus for in-person instruction. We are Owls United in our efforts to keep each other safe and healthy, and we need the help, cooperation, and participation of you and every other member of our on-campus community to maintain a healthy and safe campus environment. While none of us can ensure the campus will be free from the risk of contracting the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, by working together we can reduce the risk. We are all in this together and we ask you help reduce the risk of transmission by staying current on information about the virus provided by public health officials and experts.

Keene State College has established and implemented public campus-wide protocols designed to limit the spread of COVID-19 on the campus and to help safeguard vulnerable persons on campus, in the City of Keene, and in the wider community for the 2020-21 academic year. The protocols are available on the Keene State College’s Fall return website and the Dean of Students’ website. Each member of the community is being asked to commit to a set of behaviors to support keeping you and the college and local community safe. Thank you for this commitment. We are Owl in this together!

Stay Informed

Keene State College has been following the directives of the Governor of the State of New Hampshire, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and New Hampshire’s Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to guide us in our approach to delivering our curriculum to our students and opening our campuses for the fall semester.

- We refer you to our COVID-19 website page to reference useful and important public health resources and the school’s prior communications on this topic.

- You may also access government resources as follows:
  - Governor of State of New Hampshire [https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/]
  - CDC’s website [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html]
  - New Hampshire’s DHHS website: [https://www.nh.gov/covid19/index.htm]
Commitment to Health and Safety

Keene State College’s protocols and policies for on-campus learning and activities include guidelines for students, faculty, and staff to support the College’s efforts to keep each other safe.

By signing this commitment, I agree to:

- Practice Physical Distancing – maintain six feet between myself and others whenever possible
- Avoid social gatherings on and off campus involving groups of more than 10
- Wear a mask at all times on campus except when in my residence hall room, off-campus living spaces, or eating while seated
- Wash or sanitize my hands frequently throughout the day, and upon return to my living quarters
- Follow public health guidelines in local businesses, public places, and on all public transportation.
- Follow immunization protocols, which will include obtaining a flu vaccine when available in the fall.
- Participate in COVID-19 testing as instructed
- Participate in COVID-19 screening protocols
- Participate in contact tracing protocols including downloading and activating any required KSC approved public health applications.
- Self-monitor my health condition and report to The Wellness Center any COVID-19 symptoms or exposure to individuals with COVID-19 or its symptoms. The College supports you in calling The Wellness Center for help and remaining home when necessary.
- Adhere to isolation and quarantine protocols in the event of a positive COVID-19 test or exposure to someone who has tested positive
- Modeling this healthy behavior both on and off campus
- Comply with any waivers of liability for participation in certain curricular and co-curricular activities or in order to attend certain events, functions, or academic activities.
- Respond to messages from college staff who may be checking on my well-being or otherwise need my assistance.

It is important that we work together in following protocols, policies, and guidelines that are established to keep one another safe. Our protocols will be updated from time to time based on evolving conditions, guidance, and directives from the State of New Hampshire and the CDC. We will notify you of these updates and will post them on our Fall Return website.
If You Feel Sick

If you experience any COVID-19 symptoms (listed below), you are required to report them to the Wellness Center and may be required to be tested, remain quarantined until the test results are available, and, in the event of a positive test, remain in isolation until cleared by a health care professional for return to in-person classes and other on-campus activities. Keene State College has established isolation and quarantine protocols that will allow for continued access to your educational programs.

According to the CDC, COVID-19 symptoms include (but may not be limited to):

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Tuition Obligations

Regardless of the learning environment for fall 2020, the tuition and fees will be the same. The tuition and fees you provide are in exchange for learning, academic credit, and certain non-academic services that will be provided whether in-person, in a hybrid environment, or entirely remotely. Keene State is investing heavily in protocols and safety measures to keep our community safe. However, if the semester is interrupted due to safety concerns, and the college must end in-person campus operations and provide services remotely prior to November 25, 2020, Keene State will refund fees for services that can no longer be accessed, as well as prorated housing and dining costs for the rest of the semester. The college is ensuring that remote delivery of classes will continue in this instance, therefore, tuition will remain as originally billed.

By signing below, I understand the College’s approach to on-campus learning during the covid-19 pandemic. I understand that my decision to return to on-campus programming is voluntary. I understand that Keene State College cannot guarantee my health or immunity from infection. I understand there are risks of exposure to the virus from symptomatic and asymptomatic carriers. I recognize that the risks of exposure to covid-19 include sharing space with others and engaging in interpersonal communications. I assume the risks associated with returning to campus including the risk of exposure to covid-19. I affirm my obligation to cooperate in making the campus reasonably safe, and consent to attending on-campus programming at Keene State College.
I have read, understand, and agree to comply with this Keene State College Community Commitment Acknowledgment above. I further understand that I am subject to the provisions of the Code of Conduct as they relate to these expectations for my behavior.

Please check applicable:
_ Can’t wait to get back on campus, I agree to the commitments
_ I don’t agree to the commitments, I prefer to have a remote schedule*
_ I agree with the commitments but have a preference to take my classes remotely*

____________________________
Signature of Student
____________________________
Date

____________________________
Print Name

____________________________
Local Address (residence hall or off-campus)

____________________________
Signature of Parent/Guardian (if student under age 18)
____________________________
Date

____________________________
Print Name

* If you do not agree to the terms of this Community Commitment Acknowledgment, your ability to participate in on-campus activities will be restricted. Your ability to develop a fully remote schedule will vary on a case-by-case basis depending on what courses you need or desire to take and whether those courses are online or are hybrid and can be fully taken remotely. If you are able to develop a schedule of remote classes, any room and board charges will be refunded, fees will be adjusted to reflect service, and financial aid packages will be adjusted to reflect cost of attendance. If you choose not to be enrolled for fall semester your tuition, and fees including application fees and deposits will also be refunded. If you have questions: new students should contact Office of Transition and Parent Programs at yoursucces@keene.edu, returning students should contact Academic and Career Advising Office at aca@keene.edu.