

# Quinnipiac Cares: Safeguarding the Health of Our Local Communities



Quinnipiac University students have begun moving back on campus. We at the university, as well as many in the local community, are eager to welcome them back. The many months of planning—informed by university leaders, students, public-private partnerships and public health experts—have positioned Quinnipiac to be as safe as possible.

We created this overview for our community friends and neighbors to familiarize you with our plans so you can be assured that your health and safety are of paramount importance to us. We understand that news stories from campuses around the country describing irresponsible student behaviors are cause for concern.

Please be assured that we are taking every precaution to contain the spread of the pandemic through both physical protections, as well as behavioral measures. A few examples of our actions include:

- **Requiring all students to test negative** for COVID-19 before returning to campus; they are then tested again upon their arrival, followed by weekly testing of approximately 15% of all undergraduate students on and off campus for early detection and any rise in infections.
- **Creating an easy-to-use symptom checking mobile app** that will require all students, faculty and staff to report their symptoms daily.
- **Strictly enforcing a face covering policy** everywhere outside a student's room, or an employee's office.
- **Creating a quick-response, in-house contact tracing team** that has completed training from both the state of Connecticut and Johns Hopkins School of Public Health to promptly identify and separate any students, faculty or staff who may have been exposed to the virus.
- **Setting aside space on campus** for safe isolation and quarantine, as necessary.
- **Greatly reducing the occupancy** of our classrooms and other on-campus spaces.

- **Instituting a restrictive visitor policy** to our campuses and residence halls.

We recognize that these measures alone, while extensive, are not enough. We expect our students to act responsibly, on and off campus. This is an instance where it truly “takes a village.”

We have asked every student and employee to sign the Quinnipiac Pact, a pledge to promote the health and safety of all community members and neighbors. We have collaborated throughout the summer with our student leaders, who have been trained as student health ambassadors.

We are restricting students' off-campus gatherings to a maximum of 16 people outdoors and 10 people indoors, rules that are far more stringent than state guidelines. Repercussions for violating these rules will begin with disciplinary probation, revoking students' participation in on-campus activities, up to potential suspension from the university for extreme violators.

Of course, conditions may change, and we will need to adapt, but we've taken these extraordinary measures because we believe the educational opportunity of attending college, in person, is vital to an individual's intellectual and emotional development.

Our comprehensive plan enables a healthy university environment for our students, faculty and staff, and is designed to sustain the current low rates of infection in Connecticut—and in our home towns of Hamden and North Haven, in particular. We hope this plan reassures our community partners that Quinnipiac University is sparing no effort in keeping our neighborhoods healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judy Olian'.

Judy Olian  
*President, Quinnipiac University*



# Shared Responsibilities and Respect for Each Other

## The Quinnipiac Pact

Each of us must take extraordinary steps to stay well and protect each other, both on campus and in the Hamden and North Haven communities. For that reason, we have asked all students, faculty and staff to sign a pledge to take responsibility for their own health and to work diligently to keep the Quinnipiac community and our families and neighbors safe from the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses. These actions include protecting our own health, protecting the health of others, and preventing the spread of COVID by practicing good hygiene, symptom monitoring, participating in university-sponsored testing, avoiding parties and other gatherings where social distancing is not possible, and self-quarantining if feeling ill or if exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.



Read the Full Pact  
[go.qu.edu/pact](https://go.qu.edu/pact)

## A Reopening Plan Focused on Three Key Areas



### SAFETY

- **Testing:** We have designed a comprehensive testing program starting with a pre-test before students arrive, a retest as soon as they get here, and routine testing throughout the semester.
- **Physical distancing:** We have mapped out every one of our classroom spaces and common areas to create physical distancing. We've reduced the occupancy of our residence halls and eliminated all quads and triples so there are only double and single rooms.
- **Symptom checking, quarantine, isolation procedures:** We've developed an easy-to-use mobile symptom-checking app for everyone to register how they're feeling daily. We have set aside space on campus for isolation (if a student tests positive) and quarantine (if a student is exposed to someone who tested positive).
- **Contact tracing:** We've developed a well-trained tracing team and protocol to quickly separate any students, faculty or staff who have been exposed to the virus, and we'll be strictly enforcing a face covering policy everywhere on campus.



### SCIENCE

- **Health guidelines:** We've continually relied on the latest science and health guidelines to inform our decisions. We closely monitor all CDC and state of Connecticut guidelines and meet regularly with the Quinnipiac Valley Health District.
- **Public health and medical expertise:** Our in-house medical experts review the latest clinical research on COVID-19 and the effectiveness of various mitigation measures. In several instances, such as testing, we are going beyond the state or CDC guidelines. We're extremely fortunate to have such a deep bench of health experts from our Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, and many have been involved in our university COVID-19 task force, which meets daily.



### HYBRID LEARNING

- **The Q-Flex Model:** Quinnipiac is reducing the occupancy of its in-classroom instruction this fall while preserving the academic excellence we deliver to students by taking an innovative approach to teaching and learning. We call it Q-Flex. Courses will be delivered using simultaneous in-person and online instruction, with students alternating between the two modes of course participation. While students will alternate time in the classroom with distance learning, Q-Flex will create an experience that is rich and engaging, and one that allows students and faculty to stay closely connected, while prioritizing the health and safety of our community.

# Health Protocols That Protect Our Campuses and Our Community

## FACE COVERINGS

Quinnipiac is requiring all students, faculty and staff to wear face coverings whenever they are in a public space, such as classrooms, the library, cafeterias, outside on the quad, sidewalks, parking lots and garages, elevators, stairways and bathrooms. This rule applies to all individuals on campus as well as students living off campus. Those who live off campus should still be wearing a face covering whenever they are outside their living unit and around others.

## CLEANING PROTOCOLS

Facilities workers have been given the appropriate PPE, and they use cleaning and disinfecting products that meet the EPA's criteria for use against COVID-19.

- In addition, all facilities managers have earned a national "Microbial Warrior" certification through the Global Biorisk Advisory Council, the leading trade association for the cleaning industry worldwide. The certification provides our team with preventive, responsive infection and contamination control measures for potential infectious disease outbreaks, and more specifically the novel coronavirus.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available at entrance points and common areas, where possible. We are supplying 69,000 gallons of disinfectant and placing over 5,900 spray bottles near commonly used surfaces in classrooms, residence halls, academic buildings and other facilities.
- Appropriate signage will encourage best practices, such as handwashing and use of PPE.

## STRICTER VISITOR POLICY

Quinnipiac will have a more restrictive outside visitor policy in place this fall. Outside visitors are defined as anyone who is not a student, faculty or staff member at QU. This will de-densify our campuses and go a long way toward lessening possible infection transmission.

- We are discouraging parents, friends and family members of students from visiting our campuses this fall, regardless of the state they may be traveling from. Only students living in specific residence halls will be allowed to enter the buildings.
- We also are asking that our residential students limit unnecessary travel, including to their homes or elsewhere, unless it is absolutely necessary.
- Beyond Quinnipiac employees, only those providing essential services needed to support university operations will be permitted on campus, such as contractors or those delivering food and supplies.
- The QU shuttles will only run among our three campuses and will not offer service to Hamden or North Haven shopping areas.



# Off-Campus Expectations and Good Neighbor Policy

We recognize that our community extends beyond our campus boundaries. Our students understand that living off campus is different this year as COVID-19 has heightened health awareness and sensitivities. This comes with important new responsibilities to preserve the health and safety of themselves and their neighbors.

We have set clear expectations with our students that large gatherings, ignoring physical distancing requirements and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Because of the high stakes involved, Quinnipiac is imposing strict limits this fall on off-campus group gatherings:

- **Outdoor gatherings will be restricted to a maximum of 16 people, while maintaining physical distancing and mask wearing.**
- **Indoor gatherings will be restricted to a maximum of 10 people, while maintaining physical distancing and mask wearing.**

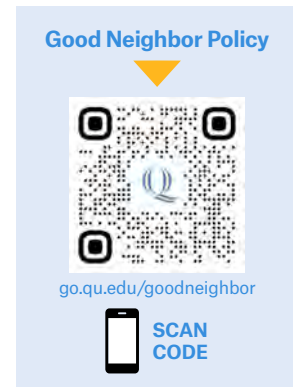
Quinnipiac Public Safety is working in collaboration with the Hamden Police Department to monitor off-campus gatherings and will take action if these rules are violated. Repercussions for students violating these policies or exceeding the restrictions on group gatherings are as follows:

- First offense results in a disciplinary probation, and the students involved will be prohibited from participating in all on-ground classes and co-curricular activities for up to four weeks, as determined by the Student Conduct Office.
- Second offense results in suspension from the university for the remainder of the fall semester, at a minimum, as determined by the Student Conduct Office.

## Student Health Ambassadors

Our students are taking these shared accountabilities to heart. A group of student health ambassadors, composed of student leaders from our Student Government Association, Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, sports teams, and student clubs and organizations, including the student media, fraternities and sororities, will role model expected behaviors and encourage their classmates to support the measures we've put in place to safeguard the university community and our neighboring communities.

The university has asked all its students to refamiliarize themselves with QU's longstanding **Good Neighbor Policy** and to sign the Quinnipiac Pact to acknowledge the impact their actions can have on the neighborhood in which they live.



## How to Contact Us

QU's Community Concerns Hotline is a 24/7 resource to report off-campus gatherings or other concerning behaviors. Please contact 203-582-3770 or [communityconcerns@qu.edu](mailto:communityconcerns@qu.edu).

# Off-Campus Housing Task Force

Our Off-Campus Housing Task Force is partnering with elected leaders and area residents to enhance the well-being of our shared community, inform the public of community interest projects and events, and share other efforts and opportunities that will bring our community together.

**Ralph DiFonzo**  
*Hamden resident and landlord*

**Monique Drucker**  
*QU, Vice President and Dean of Students*

**Thomas Ellett**  
*Chief Student Experience Officer*

**Lynn Fox**  
*Chief of Environmental Services,  
Quinnipiac Valley Health District*

**Lille Gaeta**  
*QU, Student Government Association  
(SGA) representative*

**Bo Kicak**  
*Hamden Police Deputy Chief*

**Daniel Kops**  
*Hamden Planning and Zoning*

**Bob Labulis**  
*Hamden Building Inspector*

**Michael (Mick) McGarry**  
*Hamden Town Council President*

**Gary Merwede**  
*Hamden Fire Chief*

**James Nealy**  
*Interim AVP and Chief of Public Safety*

**John Sullivan**  
*Hamden Police Chief*

**Stephen Sweet**  
*Director of Student Conduct*

**Bethany Zemba**  
*QU, Vice President (of Community Relations)  
and Chief of Staff*