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**Eastern Connecticut State University  
Reopening Plan, Fall 2020**

**Name of Institution:** Eastern Connecticut State University

**Incident Response Team**

The Eastern Connecticut State University Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) Incident Response Team (IRT) is composed of senior management and other administrative staff. The team is activated when campus emergencies occur, e.g. H1N1 flu and COVID-19. The team includes all vice presidents as well as directors of operational units, representing campus functions ranging from Campus Police and Housing to Academics, Facilities, University Relations, Student Life, Student Health Services, Human Resources, Information Technology, and more. The IRT has been meeting weekly since early March to coordinate the University's response to COVID-19 issues, including internal communications, coordinating services, and serving as liaison with various external agencies and resources. Chair Ken DeLisa briefs the President on the discussions and decisions made in IRT meetings and detailed meeting minutes are distributed to the IRT and senior administrators.

**COVID-19 Coordinators:**

Chair of the Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) Incident Response Team  
Ken DeLisa, Vice President for Institutional Advancement/Chief HR Officer  
Contact Information: (860) 465-5269; delisak@easternct.edu

**COVID-19 Care Coordinator**

Sandra Rose-Zak, Coordinator of Wellness Education and Promotion  
Contact Information: (860) 465-2821; rosezaks@easternct.edu

**Intended date of arrival of students:**

August 10-21, 2020 (resident students allowed to drop off belongings; out-of-state and international students start moving in)  
August 17-21, 2020 (STEP/CAP students and athletes)  
August 23, 2020 (freshman move-in)  
August 24-25, 2020 (upperclassman move-in)

**Intended date classes will start:** August 26, 2020

**Intended duration of the fall semester:**

Eastern plans on holding a full fall semester starting on August 24, 2020, and ending on December 15, 2020. On-campus instruction, however, will be completed on November 24, with the balance of the semester — including exams — taking place online following the Thanksgiving Break. Resident students must vacate the residence halls at the beginning of Thanksgiving Break for the balance of the semester.

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## **Plan Components**

(Should the CDC guidelines or State Department of Health guidelines be changed or amended the four plans listed below will be adjusted accordingly)

1. Repopulating the Campus (the return of students to campus)
2. Monitoring the Health of Students, Faculty and Staff
3. Containing Incidents of COVID-19
4. Shutdown: Pivoting to Online Learning and Closing the Campus

## **PART 1: Repopulating the Campus**

### **Classrooms:**

**All facilities, including classrooms, have been evaluated to establish maximum occupancy.** All classrooms (approximately 130 to accommodate 1,500 course sections) have been reconfigured to remove seating and ensure that six feet of physical distancing has been achieved; seating distances are marked by tape and room capacity for all spaces has been posted. "Teaching space" is also marked, and podium partitions are being installed.

In addition to reduced seating in traditional classrooms, larger spaces such as auditoriums and other large common areas have been reassigned for use as classrooms, and seating is being removed or adjusted to ensure six feet of social distancing.

To allow for a full complement of courses for the semester while accommodating the reduction of classroom capacity, the faculty and administration have worked together to develop a fall class schedule that includes a strong mixture of hybrid and online courses (approximately 60% hybrid, 40% online). Hybrid courses are in either a "rotating students" or "rotating class" format. In the "rotating students" format, half of the students are in the classroom with the instructor for one class period, while the other half of the class participates remotely. The two group of students then switch for the second class period of the week. In the "rotating class" format, which will be used in larger common spaces that have been modified for instructional use, all the students are with the instructor during the first class period, and then all are online with the instructor teaching remotely for the second class period of the week, allowing for space utilization by other classes.

**Board of Regents and Eastern Connecticut State University policies regarding mandated use of face masks and social distancing will be in force** and have been communicated to students, faculty and staff via email and on the University website. Bandanas and scarves are not acceptable substitutes for face masks, which must cover the nose and mouth. Masks are available to employees on request through their supervisors. The Director of Environmental Health and Safety will coordinate the request process. Employees will be responsible for care and cleaning of any masks issued. Face shields (to be worn with masks) are also available to faculty on request.

Students will rotate through laboratory settings using University social distancing guidelines and other health and safety protocols. In addition, interns will continue to be placed at sites that remain open, with social distancing and other guidelines in place.

Instructional technology has been upgraded in classrooms to include webcams (on back order), microphones, and other technology to assist in hybrid course delivery. Using grant funds and other monies, faculty have been engaged throughout the summer in learning new alternative delivery systems and pedagogy to maximize hybrid and online learning modalities.

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Students who are concerned about taking classes on-campus this fall may request that they take only online classes and/or take hybrid classes remotely. If a class is a hybrid, they will need to get the instructor's permission to participate remotely for all class sessions.

Faculty office hours/visits will be conducted virtually, and academic support services, such as tutoring and advising, will be offered remotely when possible. Some academic support offices, i.e. registrar's office, financial aid, and advising will provide limited face-to-face services, with protective barriers between students and staff in those offices.

### **Dining:**

Hurley Dining Hall and the Student Center Food Court will be open, starting on August 23, 2020, with limited seating based on current Connecticut restaurant guidelines to ensure six feet of physical distancing (anticipated 50 percent seating capacity). The Library Café and the Shafer Hall Café will be closed for the fall semester.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner hours of operation will be restricted in Hurley Hall to allow for cleaning the dining room between meals, as follows: Monday through Friday 7:15-9:30 a.m. for breakfast, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. for lunch and 4-8 p.m. for dinner. On the weekends, Hurley will be open 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. for brunch, and 5-8 p.m. for dinner.

All plates and utensils will be disposable. No self-service "buffets" will be operating; all food will be single-portion and packaged in real time by Chartwells Food Services staff.

Very similar to restaurants, students will be required to wear face masks while getting their food but will be able to take them off once seated in the dining room. Students will be able to get takeout meals to go if desired.

The Student Center Food Court will be open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. and will be open from 2-9 p.m. on the weekends. Modified services will be available, with a focus on increasing the amount of prepackaged food to-go. New this year is a mobile pre-order/pre-pay app that can be downloaded onto customers' cell phones.

### **Athletics:**

The Little East Conference has cancelled any conference play for the fall; Eastern will be developing a limited schedule of non-conference games to provide its student-athletes with some level of competition. The university has established new guidelines to protect all student athletes and coaching staff during athletic games. All games' workers, officials, staff, and student-athletes will be screened (temperature checks and screening questions). Workers will wear masks if social distancing is not possible. Names will be recorded in case contact tracing is necessary. No pre- or post-game handshakes will be permitted. No locker rooms will be available for officials. Officials paperwork will be done online. No spectators will be allowed at games.

More port-a-pots will be available as necessary. LEC visiting teams will present document verifying screening (temp and system check) prior to competition. No overnight travel allowed. Social distancing will be enforced during bus travel.

The Department of Athletics has rearranged the athletic training room to provide less tables and more space. In addition, athletes will need to make appointments for treatment, thus limiting the number of people in the room. The Athletics Center will not be utilizing team locker rooms. Team meetings will be done either at the end of practices, with social distancing enforced, or virtually.

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The swimming pool, cardio and weightlifting facilities in the Sports Center will be closed to the public this fall; they will reopen when public health conditions permit.

Club sports will follow league guidelines, which are currently under review. Regarding intramurals, we will conduct a variety of outdoor fitness classes, i.e. yoga, Zumba, conditioning, tai chi. The gymnasium will be used, with social distancing guidelines in place, to offer indoor fitness classes. Intramural sports, where social distancing can be maintained, will include activities such as golf scramble, rock climbing, kayaking, disc golf, homerun derby, tennis, pickle ball, ping pong, corn hole, darts, bowling and pool. Virtual fitness classes will also be conducted.

### **Common Areas:**

Seating in common areas (lounges, sitting areas, etc.) has been reconfigured to conform to social distancing guidelines (at least six feet of distance). In addition, campus events and activities are being limited based on State of Connecticut indoor and outdoor capacity guidelines (currently 25 individuals or fewer inside and up to 100 for outside events). Residential hall programming will be virtual or have attendance caps. In all instances, social distancing will be required, and all students must wear masks at events.

The library will be open but limited to 50 percent capacity and will be open only to Eastern students and employees. Clear dividers will be used to shield employees and students in close contact areas. Masks must be worn, and social distancing followed by staff and patrons.

### **Other Spaces:**

All students, faculty, and staff must maintain six feet of physical (social) distancing on campus, whether indoors or outdoors. All students, faculty, and staff must also wear masks in public spaces or in work areas where six feet of separation cannot be maintained. That means open offices, hallways, lounges, common rooms, and other open spaces.

Meetings of more than three people must be conducted via WebEx or Microsoft Teams; meetings of three or fewer people may be conducted in person with appropriate social distancing and with all participants wearing face masks.

Staff will provide services in person by appointment, or through appropriate queuing for services, i.e., floor markings showing six feet distancing and signage asking visitors to call into offices before entering. Services will also be provided by staff working remotely.

The campus shuttle service will be offered with limited bus capacity (maximum of three students at a time) based on social distancing guidelines; masks must be worn at all times.

### **Residence Halls:**

Occupancy this fall in our 14 on-campus residence halls will be approximately 85 percent, with 54 percent of bedrooms (1,310) being single rooms. Students living in a suite or apartment will be considered a "social unit," and expected to maintain social distancing from other residents. All resident students are expected to maintain six feet of physical distancing beyond their social unit, including bathrooms and other common areas.

In addition to assigning sufficient rooms to accommodate all students requesting on-campus housing, 90 beds have been reserved in the Low Rise Apartments (50 beds) and Winthrop Hall (40 beds) should it be necessary to isolate students who test positive for COVID-19. The University has also contracted with the Inn on Storrs to provide off-campus accommodations if necessary; that facility can house an additional 60 students.

Common bathrooms in Burnap, Burr and Crandall Halls will be cleaned twice per day, M-F, by Facilities staff. Social distancing (six feet) must be maintained in public and communal bathrooms. Bathrooms in residential suites and apartments will be cleaned by the residents, who will be instructed in the use of Eastern-supplied cleaning agents; personal items must be left in the resident's bedroom.

The use of masks in common areas, social distancing, and other health and safety protocols must be followed in the residence halls. Common areas, i.e. lounges, kitchens, laundry rooms, will have maximum occupancy posted. Residence hall elevators will be limited to one person at a time; stairwells will be designated as "up" or "down" except in the event of an emergency evacuation.

Fitness rooms will not be open in the residence halls this fall; computer labs will be open, with capacity limited to accommodate social distancing guidelines.

During the fall semester, guest visitation in the residence halls will be prohibited except by residents of that same hall, i.e., individuals will not be permitted to visit other residents unless they are also residents of that hall. Guest visitation to rooms, suites and apartments will be limited to one guest per occupant of the room and the guest must be a resident from within the same residence hall. For example, an apartment that has four residents cannot have more than eight people within the apartment at any given time, i.e. four residents and four guests.

All students living in the residence halls will be expected to move out at the beginning of the Thanksgiving break for the balance of the semester. As part of their housing contract, all resident students must read and sign the Board of Regents Housing Contract Addendum.

Most residence hall social and educational programs will be held virtually; those held in person will have a maximum attendance cap to achieve social distancing.

### **Orientation/Arrival:**

A third-party vendor (Advantage Orientation) was used to provide incoming students and their families with a robust summer orientation program. More than 800 students have participated in the program, equivalent to a normal orientation year.

During the week of July 13, 2020, all students who have signed up for on-campus housing for the fall were given instructions to use an online platform to sign up for dropping off their belongings during the August 10-21, 2020, time period. Time slots and capacity limits will replicate the move-out process used in the spring to safely vacate the residence halls.

Students may start dropping off belongings on August 10, 2020. This will minimize large crowds of people during the move-in days of August 23-25, 2020. We will identify and set number of person limits; staff and student staff will be able to help monitor this by "check-in" points or head counts. Out-of-state students may arrive on campus on August 8; (see testing plans for additional information concerning testing/quarantining of out-of-state students).

Eastern will offer a variety of virtual and in-person events for Warrior Welcome, which will include sign-ups to put caps on the number of students in attendance. Student Activities will also be offering in-person events outdoors. Supplemental events will also be offered virtually for those students who may not feel comfortable participating in larger groups or leaving their residence hall. All activities will utilize markers on ground, so students maintain the University's social distancing policy when waiting for an activity, or when waiting to get into a room. Student Affairs staff will also help monitor lines. We will use pre-registration systems (Eventbrite) for events and offering virtual/streaming technology when available.

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### **Personal Protective Equipment**

Multiple emails and other forms of communication have been sent over the summer to students, faculty and staff, informing them of the Board of Regents “COVID-19 Mask and Social Distancing Guidelines” that require face masks in all public spaces on campus. The same policy language has been posted to the Eastern website. Each incoming residential student will be given a “welcome gift” of a face mask and bottle of hand sanitizer. In addition, all faculty and staff have been informed that they may receive one, washable cloth facemask on request. Faculty may also request a face shield for use in combination with a face mask.

More than 6,000 signs have been purchased/installed to remind the campus community of mask wearing requirements and social distancing guidelines in offices, common spaces and queues for service. Signs will also provide reminders describing (1) COVID-19 symptoms, (2) health/safety protocols, (3) room capacity limits, (4) traffic flow requirements, and (5) other guidelines. Tape has been placed to measure six feet of physical distancing in queues for service and other locations.

The Purchasing Office has coordinated with the Facilities Department and other units to ensure that custodial staff, health services and other staff whose work may require additional protective equipment — i.e. gloves, shields — has the necessary protection.

Students have been informed that non-compliance will be considered a student code of conduct violation; students not wearing masks will be instructed put a mask on and disposable masks will be available if they do not have one on hand. Further noncompliance will result in removal from class and referral to the Office of Student Conduct. Employees have received email communications concerning the Governor’s executive order mandating wearing of a face mask as a work rule. Noncompliant employees will be directed to leave the premises. with medical conditions Visitors must also follow the Board’s Mask and Social Distancing Guidelines. Persons who cannot wear a mask due to medical conditions certified by their healthcare provider cannot remain on campus and must work with the appropriate office on accommodations.

### **Disinfection/Cleaning:**

The university has purchased 500 additional hand sanitation units for installation at all building entrances, at the entrance to all classrooms, and in dining halls, lounges and other common areas.

As part of the signage regimen described above, signs reminding students, faculty and staff to wash their hands and practice other healthy personal hygiene habits have been posted in bathrooms and other public areas throughout the campus.

Disinfecting wipes or disinfecting spray and paper towels are available at copiers, in classrooms and at other “high touch” equipment and areas. No air dryers will be operational in University bathrooms.

Facilities staff have deep cleaned buildings in accordance with relevant CDC and State of Connecticut guidelines. They have also received training on new cleaning protocols, and safe and proper use of approved cleaning chemicals and disinfectants. Public bathrooms with high-traffic volume, such as classroom buildings, will be cleaned twice daily as well as sanitized each night; all other bathrooms will be cleaned and sanitized daily. “High touch” areas will be cleaned daily and will receive additional disinfecting and cleaning each evening.

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Fresh air intake in buildings will be adjusted to increase the number of air changes per hour, and nightly purges of air intake will occur. All HVAC filters will be replaced on a quarterly basis. Additional cleaning and disinfecting equipment has been ordered, i.e. disinfecting electrostatic sprayers; training for Facilities staff will occur when the equipment is received.

**Travel:**

Students, faculty and staff are being highly discouraged from unnecessary travel. In particular, students are discouraged from traveling out of state and no University-funded student out-of-state travel, i.e. clubs, conferences, will be approved.

Other than international students arriving/departing from campus as part of their academic studies, international travel is strongly discouraged. Current CDC guidelines are that anyone entering the United States from overseas should self-quarantine for 14 days.

In addition, travelers from the following countries are prohibited from entry to the United States: the United Kingdom, Ireland, Iran, China, Brazil, and the Schengen area of Europe. (See CDC website for list of those countries.)

Per State of Connecticut guidelines, anyone traveling to the campus from the state's list of "high incidence" states must self-quarantine for 14 days. (See "testing" for further information on protocols for out-of-state students.) In addition, until further notice, no employees will be approved for out-of-state travel to "hot spot" states. Other faculty/staff out-of-state travel requests will be reviewed on an "exceptions" basis.

In addition to the policies and procedures stated above, the University will follow all additional State of Connecticut and Federal guidelines regarding travel restrictions.

**Staffing:**

Since March 2020, all employees have received multiple instructions that they should not come to work should they exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, notifying their supervisor and seeking medical attention from their healthcare provider. Additionally, if an employee is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, department supervisors are authorized to request the employee leave campus and seek medical attention. Employees who test positive for COVID-19 should quarantine and will need a medical clearance from their healthcare provider to return to work. This medical clearance document must be returned to the University's Human Resources Department to the attention of Maria Weinberger.

**Access to Campus:**

Resident students are limited to one guest at a time, and that guest must be a resident of the same residence hall. Overnight guests will not be permitted. No guests from outside of the hall will be permitted, including family and friends. In addition, library access will be limited to students and employees, and most Sports Center facilities will be closed; the gym itself will be open for students and employees only.

The Office of Admissions will be conducting small group campus visits starting in August, limiting capacity and maintaining social distancing and mask guidelines. Larger group visits will be conducted by virtual means this fall. The Office of Admissions will also use video conferencing platforms and the University's online virtual tour to communicate with prospective students and their families. Admissions events such as the Open House will be conducted virtually.

## **PART TWO: Monitoring the Health of Students, Faculty and Staff**

### **Student Testing/Residential Institutions:**

Resident students from Connecticut must have documentation of COVID-19 testing that has occurred within 14 days prior to their arrival to campus, preferably 72 hours but no later than 14 days. Documentation will be sent to and tracked by Student Health Services.

Students with positive tests must quarantine until 14 days without symptoms have passed since the test was taken. While commuter students are not required to get testing prior to the beginning of the semester, those commuter students who exhibit symptoms will need to self-quarantine and be tested; those with positive tests must quarantine until 10 days without symptoms have passed since testing.

Out-of-state students from “hot spot” states identified by the State of Connecticut (found on [ct.gov](http://ct.gov); 34 states plus Puerto Rico and District of Columbia as of July 28, 2020) will be required to have a negative test result as close to arrival on campus as possible. The test must be administered preferably 72 hours but no earlier than 14 days in advance of their arrival. These students must quarantine on campus for 14 days on arrival.

Students from states other than the hot spot states (campus residents and commuting) also will be required to have a negative test result as close to arrival on campus as possible. The test must be administered preferably 72 hours but no earlier than 14 days in advance of their arrival. These students will not need to quarantine.

**Upon arrival, all out-of-state students will retested within seven days of arrival on campus; they will not be required to quarantine.**

Students may move into their residence halls starting August 8. Students may quarantine in their residence hall with their assigned roommates or their off-campus housing accommodations.

All students must also submit an online screening questionnaire upon arrival and each day for first seven days after arrival.

Should a residential student test positive for COVID-19 either upon arrival to campus or at any point during the year and wish to return home during their period of recuperation, they may do so; they need to be cleared by Student Health Services prior to returning. The University will quarantine, isolate and care for any students testing positive for COVID-19 who stay on campus.

Test kits will be available from Griffin Hospital for on-campus testing to test students who arrive on campus without the required testing documentation. Local testing options are also available. These students will be asked to self-quarantine until they test negative for COVID-19.

Students with positive test results must self-isolate for 14 days from the date of the test. This time may be extended for students who become symptomatic. Self-isolation may continue beyond the minimum 10-day period according to CDC guidelines. Students who are unable to return home, will be assigned to an isolation residential area provided by the university until they are cleared to return to the campus.

Any student with symptoms of potential COVID-19 infection will be evaluated and tested as soon as possible.

**Ongoing Testing:**

Throughout the fall semester, 5-10 percent of residential students and out-of-state commuting students will be tested weekly in each residence hall using the RT-PCR COVID-19 test. This will include random sampling of the student population and targeted testing. Resident assistants and residence hall directors will also be included in the sampling.

The purpose is to identify person-to-person spread of the virus and guide the implementation of control measures throughout the semester. Students who test positive must self-isolate until 10 days have passed with no symptoms from the date of the test. This 10-day period may be extended for those who develop symptoms according to CDC guidelines.

A weekly supply of test kits will be made available by Griffin Hospital to Student Health Services should any students or their close contacts become symptomatic.

Contacts of students who test positive will be identified and tested using the RT-PCR COVID-19 test. If an asymptomatic contact tests negative during their 14-day quarantine period, this person should continue to observe quarantine for the full 14-days and self-monitor for symptoms. Contact tracing might result in the testing of all the students and staff in a residence hall.

**Appointment of COVID-19 Coordinator:**

Sandra Rose-Zak, Coordinator of Wellness Education and Promotion, has been appointed as the COVID-19 Care Coordinator to coordinate student testing, contact tracing, data sharing, and other day-to-day operations.

As the COVID-19 Care Coordinator, Ms. Rose-Zak will coordinate and monitor the plans for testing to support the health of students; assist with the University's plan for containment in collaboration with Public Safety and Facilities; and serve as a campus resource around public and community health issues.

The Care Coordinator will serve as the liaison with the COVID-19 Coordinators at other colleges and universities across the state and oversee reporting for common COVID-19 data dashboard and other data requirements.

The Care Coordinator will attend regular Incident Response Team meetings for the purpose of keeping the committee advised of current and proposed plans and initiatives.

The coordinator will collaborate with the University's Director of Health Services to coordinate, implement and document testing requirements for the University, including initial testing and ongoing testing strategy. She will serve as the operational liaison with the health care provider contracted to provide testing on campus.

The coordinator will also provide leadership, coordination and documentation for the University's contact tracing program in collaboration with the regional Department of Public Health, to include the recruitment and training of contact tracers and the implementation of protocols and procedures for documenting processes and results. The coordinator will also serve as a liaison between Health Services and Residential Life in the coordination of residential quarantine and isolation space, and collaborate with Health Services and Human Resources to coordinate the clearance of student workers regarding testing requirements and quarantine and isolation requirements.

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The coordinator will also collaborate with Chartwells and other vendors to provide daily meals to students in quarantine and isolation. She will collaborate with Housing and Residential Life, Facilities and staff at Inn at Storrs and to arrange for housing (on and off campus), maintenance and cleaning of facilities used for isolation and quarantine and will coordinate with Health Services the daily wellness of students in isolation and/or quarantine.

### **Collecting Information About COVID-19 Cases:**

Students, faculty and staff have been counseled to monitor their health and be watchful for COVID-19 symptoms. In addition to various communications to this effect, signage on campus also alerts the campus community to see Student Health Services (students) or one's personal healthcare provider (employees) should symptoms occur.

The University will require that any member of the faculty, staff or commuter student upon suffering from symptoms or a diagnosis of COVID-19, to stay at home and seek medical attention from their doctor. Employees have also been directed to notify their supervisor should they experience COVID-19 symptoms.

Should a residential student test positive for COVID-19, or suffer from related symptoms, at any point during the year, the student will be allowed to return home during their period of recuperation if they desire and will need to be cleared by Student Health Services prior to returning. The University will provide isolation/quarantine accommodations, food service, and care in all other cases.

The COVID Care Coordinator will collect and report on all data relating to COVID-19 testing, quarantine/isolation, and contact tracing. The coordinator will collaborate with the University's Director of Health Services to oversee student self-monitoring reporting and tracking those in quarantine and isolation.

## **PART THREE: Containing Incidents of COVID-19**

### **Isolation Space:**

Arrangements have been made to isolate or quarantine students who cannot return home at on- and off-campus locations. In addition, an isolation room has been established in Student Health Services to evaluate high-risk patients.

If a student needs to go into quarantine or isolation, and they reside in on-campus housing, Health Services will work with Housing and Residence Life to assist the student in moving to a room until the period of quarantine or isolation is over.

Ninety beds have been set aside in Winthrop Hall (40 beds) and in the Low Rise Apartments (50 beds) for isolation purposes. Low Rise has private bathrooms and full kitchens in each apartment. Winthrop Hall's rooms are all singles, with one common area bathroom on the two floors these rooms are located.

The off-campus location will be at the Inn at Storrs in Mansfield which has capacity for 60 students (60 beds) in double-occupancy rooms. Private bathrooms are located in each room.

Chartwell's will provide three boxed meals daily for students in isolation/quarantine and deliver the food to students. This will be coordinated by the COVID Care Coordinator.

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**Isolation Protocol:**

The Health Center will continue to hold office hours from 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. during the week. Plexiglass shields will be installed on the front office desk to minimize virus exposure if a student, faculty or staff needs to interact with a front office staff person directly.

An "Isolation Room" will allow potential COVID patients to be seen without entering the main area. We will limit the number of students in the waiting area to maintain a minimum of six feet of distancing. All students will exit with staff escort through the door that leads outside.

Students who present with symptoms consistent with COVID -19 will not be seen at the Student Health Services (SHS) unless it is an emergency. Instead, the health service provider will plan for the student to proceed to be tested on campus. If an in-person examination or assessment is deemed necessary, the provider will notify the front office staff that an appointment needs to be scheduled for that day or the following day based on the presenting concern and appointment availability. SHS will notify Public Safety, Facilities, COVID Care Coordinator and Vice President of Student Affairs.

Students with symptoms suspicious for COVID-19 will be seen in a designated room for high risk infectious diseases. When meeting with a student for an in-person appointment, the health service provider and the student are required to maintain a minimum 6-foot distance from each other (if possible) and wear a mask and gloves, as well as wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or with hand sanitizer before and after the appointment. All necessary PPE will be utilized and discarded according to CDC and DPH guidance and recommendations. At no time will a health service provider render services to a student without wearing all necessary PPE. Student health records will be accessed via the Electronic Health Record (EHR) system. If a student transport is required, EMS will be activated.

Students in isolation and/or quarantine will be contacted daily via telehealth by medical staff and general wellness checks (i.e. meals, access to mental health services, academics) by the COVID Care Coordinator.

**Quarantine Protocol:**

If a student needs to go into quarantine or isolation, and they reside in on-campus housing, Health Services will work with Housing and Residence Life to assist the student in moving to a room until the period of quarantine or isolation is over.

Arrangements have been made to quarantine students who cannot return home at on- and off-campus locations. (See Isolation Protocol for details.)

**Contact Tracing:**

Eastern will work with the North Central District of the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) to coordinate student contact tracing. Several meetings have taken place to work out the logistic and notification process. Patrice Sulik, Director of Health for the North Central District Health Department, is serving as our contact person. In addition, more than 20 staff and 70 RAs have taken and passed the John Hopkins University contract tracing course; they can serve as volunteer tracers should the DPH need assistance.

Eastern's COVID Care Coordinator will coordinate our team of contract tracers with the DPH. The COVID-19 Care Coordinator and a cohort of volunteer tracers will be trained in and have access to the state's CONTACT platform.

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**Liaison with local hospitals/health care facilities:**

The Director of Health Services, the Vice President of Student Affairs and the COVID Care Coordinator have met with Windham Hospital and are working to establish a protocol, communication channel, and appropriate medical services should we experience a surge of COVID-related cases on campus. Hartford Healthcare has designated Wendy Nichols, campus care manager, as their liaison.

**PART FOUR: Shutdown: Pivoting to Online Learning and Closing the Campus**

**Shutdown based on an outbreak on the Eastern Campus:**

As it did in March, should the University need to vacate the residence halls and move to online instruction, the Housing and Residential Life staff is prepared to initiate a staged move-out plan that will allow for social distancing and adherence to health and safety protocols. Out-of-state and international students would be supported to ensure they are able to travel home in keeping with applicable Connecticut and U.S. travel restrictions. Students who are isolated or quarantined due to cases of COVID-19 would remain on campus in isolation or quarantine until medically cleared to travel. In addition, instructional continuity plans are described below.

**Statewide Shutdown:**

The University has closely followed the directives and guidelines of the State of Connecticut since the advent of COVID-19, including executive orders and other guidance from the Governor's Office, the Department of Public Health, and other state agencies. Should the State of Connecticut need to shut down, the University pledges to adhere to policies, directives and guidelines issued by the Governor of Connecticut.

**Continuity of Instruction:**

During the five months since the move to online instruction in March, the University has had time to provide additional support, training and technology to faculty and students in preparation for the fall semester—either as a hybrid/online combination, or to pivot to exclusively online. Instructional technology workshops have been provided to faculty in online and hybrid modalities, instructional technology has been added to classrooms, i.e. webcams and microphones, and can/will be used for on-campus and remote instruction; and hardware and software have been purchased and made available to faculty and students. Internet service has also been enhanced on campus and through statewide networks.