

## **2020-21 RIDER TO SRR&R ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES: COMPLIANCE WITH UNIVERSITY PUBLIC HEALTH PROTOCOL**

The health and safety of students, faculty, and staff are priorities in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. Accordingly, the University 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 Town of Durham and in the wider community for the 2020-21 academic year. The protocols are available on the University's COVID-19 website and the Dean of Students' website. They provide students unable to comply with the protocols due to documented medical or disability-related circumstances a process to obtain appropriate accommodations.

Failure to comply with the protocols will be a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. The protocols establish a process to be administered by the Office of the Dean of Students in partnership with a student's academic dean. Consequences for failure to comply will be proportional to the level of risk to the health and safety of the community and include progressive sanctions from educational meetings to directives to continue coursework remotely away from the residential campus learning environment, and communications to a student's family to protect health and safety.

The protocols may be modified by the University President, consistent with rapidly changing federal and state guidelines or directives.

## **Public Health Safety Protocols 2020-21**

### **Purpose and Origin of the Protocols**

The COVID-19 pandemic imposes serious health risks to healthy students, to vulnerable members of the campus community, to the Durham community and to students' families and home communities. These risks are well documented, not subject to serious scientific dispute and therefore will not be cataloged in detail here. The University is a residential living and learning environment, where the challenges of managing community spread are made greater by a number of factors, including the difficulty of: (a) maintaining safe physical distance in classrooms, laboratories, recreational areas and living spaces, (b) providing effective barriers to air-borne droplets carrying the virus in those spaces and (c) the highly variable impacts of the virus on persons who spread it. A substantial body of expert opinion has asserted that institutions like this one should remain closed. Another substantial body of expert opinion has asserted that keeping institutions like this one closed will harm our students and our communities for years to come. As a result, the University committed a vast amount of human effort to create procedures and protocols that follow the best available guidance to create conditions for reopening this campus and keeping it open. The persons who developed these protocols recognized that the state of knowledge about the COVID-19 virus is rapidly evolving and best practices for preventing community spread and protecting vulnerable persons is also changing quickly. Accordingly, the University President, in consultation with faculty, staff and community members, has reserved the right to modify these protocols as needed.

### **Safety Rules**

All students should prepare to do the following before and after they arrive on campus for the Fall Semester of 2020:

1. wear masks or face coverings when inside all campus buildings and outside on campus and in the downtown Durham area when physical distancing is not possible. The exceptions are private rooms in residence halls and campus-owned housing.
2. comply with posted signs, syllabus statements, and published safety rules prescribing physical distancing, frequent hand-washing, and hand sanitizer use.
3. comply with lawful directives from the NH Governor, their classroom faculty, and University administrators.
4. not host, organize, attend parties or gatherings according to the NH DHHS guidance to avoid social gatherings involving large groups of people.
5. not have any guests in their University owned residential facilities who are not current UNH students.

### **Enforcement Procedures**

1. This is a university campus. Our goal is to be mutually welcoming, inclusive and educative. In that spirit, all students, faculty and staff should expect to be reminded to observe the safety rules established in these protocols and should politely acknowledge any reminder. The principal purpose of these enforcement procedures is to achieve prompt, effective compliance with public health and safety rules.
2. Repeated failure or refusal to follow the safety rules in this protocol may be documented in a complaint to the Dean of Students office. Complaints may be filed by any member of the University community or by the owner of off-campus student housing. The complaint shall identify the student, the date, the approximate time, the place and the safety rule(s) that were

violated. For repeated violations the number of occasions that the student was reminded of the safety rule shall be included.

3. The Dean, the Dean's designee, or the student's associate dean will meet with the student. The purpose of the meeting is to allow the student to be heard on the complaint.
4. Meetings are subject to this procedure:
  - a. Complaint received and reviewed for completeness
  - b. Complaint and Meeting Notice provided to student by email.
  - c. The contents of the complaint will be presumed accurate and reliable, subject to the student's right to establish that the presumption does not apply on the facts and circumstances present.
  - d. The Dean, the Dean's designee or the associate dean shall make a finding of responsibility and impose sanctions from the list below.
5. Sanctions
  - a. Warning and educational meeting for first complaint.
  - b. Probation and educational meeting for second complaint, which will be recorded as a "strike" for purposes of the University's Three Strike Policy.
  - c. Loss of privilege to attend live classes, subject to the student's right and ability to participate in completing their coursework for a third complaint, which will be recorded as a strike.
  - d. Referral to the Community Standards office for additional disciplinary proceedings if eviction or suspension are found to be warranted.
  - e. Communication with parents – the Dean, the Dean's designee or the associate dean may communicate with the student's parents if they find that the student's violation of the safety rules would constitute a risk to the health and safety of any vulnerable person who might be living in the student's home or home community.