

## **COVID-19 Community Standards Policy for Students: Updated April 2022**

### **I. POLICY STATEMENT**

#### **A. Policy Overview**

Kean University is an institution of higher education that strives to create and maintain an environment that is healthy and safe for all community members. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the University to institute protocols for the health and safety of the entire campus community. As such, these protocols and expectations must be adhered to by all Kean students and apply on all Kean University campuses. Effective September 1, 2021, all students who attend classes on campus must receive a COVID-19 vaccination, subject to approved medical and religious exemptions. The University has made a commitment to educate its community about COVID-19 and the importance of getting vaccinated, as well as to implement general safeguarding practices to help prevent the spread on campus. The protocols instituted by the University take into consideration federal, state and local public health guidance, the needs of vulnerable populations, and the mission of the University and are necessary to protect the entire Kean community as we resume face-to-face classes and on-campus activities.

#### **B. Kean University COVID-19 Statement**

Kean University's protocols encompass testing, contact tracing, isolation and quarantine, daily health checks, social distancing and face coverings. The implementation of these protocols may change over time depending on the rate of transmission of COVID-19 on campus and in the surrounding community and the recommendations of local and state health officials. Students are expected to prioritize their health and the health and safety of the Kean community, commit to responsible actions on and off campus, and uphold the community values of integrity, fairness, community, respect and responsibility.

#### **C. COVID-19 Protocols**

- Students must self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 daily.
- Commuter students must stay home and contact Student Health Services or another health care professional if they feel ill or have been exposed to someone who is exhibiting symptoms of or has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Residential students must stay in their assigned residence hall room and must contact their Resident Assistant or the Residence Hall Director if they feel ill or have been exposed to someone who is exhibiting symptoms of or has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Students must report positive test results, and isolation or quarantine orders to Student Health Services and follow all directions given. Students may use this [form](#).
- Unvaccinated students shall test once per week via a COVID-19 PCR test and, if not testing on campus, upload test results to the Student Health Services portal by 9:00 a.m. Friday of each week.
- Vaccinated students who have been deemed a close contact or who are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 may be required to submit to testing, as directed by Student Health Services or other public health officials.
- Students must follow all recommendations for quarantine and/or isolation, as directed by Student Health Services or other public health officials.
- Students must cooperate in the University's contact tracing efforts.

- Unvaccinated students must maintain appropriate social distancing in social situations whether on or off campus.
- Students must observe all instructional signs posted by the University.
- Resident students may have overnight guests and must ensure that guests follow all University COVID protocols. In order to be granted access to the residence halls, guests are required to provide proof of full vaccination or a negative PCR test at least 24 hours before arriving on campus. The PCR test must be completed within 3 days of their visit. No rapid tests or at-home tests will be accepted.

The above protocols may be amended by the Vice President of Student Affairs, as needed, to comply with local and state public health guidelines and recommendations as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves. Notice to the campus community will be given by email communication.

## **II. VIOLATIONS OF COVID-19 COMMUNITY STANDARDS POLICY**

### **A. Violations of the COVID-19 Health Standards Policy**

Failure to abide by any of the above protocols will violate the COVID-19 Community Standards Policy. Violation of any Kean University policy, rule, or regulation published in hard copy or available electronically on the Kean University website is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct (see section E.9.). The Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct will be responsible for reviewing and investigating each case for appropriate conduct action. Any student found responsible for violating this Policy will be responsible for violating the Student Code of Conduct and subject to remedies/sanctions commensurate with the offense.

Violations of the COVID-19 Community Standards Policy pose a threat to the health and safety of the entire Kean community. Therefore, the conduct administrator of the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct or her designee may impose any remedies/sanctions, including those that result in suspension or expulsion, after the Student Conduct Conference without holding a Student Conduct Hearing. The conduct administrator or her designee may also consider an Interim Suspension pending an investigation and/or subsequent hearing process.

### **B. Bullying, harassment and intimidation**

Violations of this nature are taken very seriously and can lead to separation from the University if found responsible under the Student Code of Conduct. As a reminder, discriminatory harassment, including speech, actions, or conduct that have the effect of depriving a member of the community of educational or employment access, enjoyment, benefits, or opportunities is not tolerated by the University. Bullying, harassment and intimidation because of someone's actual or perceived vaccination status will not be tolerated and will constitute a violation of this Policy.

### **C. Remedies/Sanctions for Violations (other than missing COVID testing)**

The first and preferred approach to assure compliance with these protocols will be through public health education and communication. However, egregious or repeated offenses may result in suspension or expulsion from the University. The University reserves the right to terminate the housing contract of a residential student who violates this Policy or any of its protocols at any time.

Students found in violation of any COVID-19 community standards protocols or found responsible for placing the Kean community at risk, may receive the following:

1<sup>st</sup> offense: No disciplinary record will be generated. The student will be issued a verbal warning and asked to complete an online educational module intended to foster an appreciation of campus safety and the well-being of others.

2<sup>nd</sup> offense: A disciplinary record will be generated. If the student is found responsible, the following remedies/sanctions may apply, but are not limited to:

- Written warning
- Educational Assignment
- Probation
- Revocation of campus housing (no refund)

3<sup>rd</sup> offense: If found responsible, suspension (including revocation of the privilege to attend classes and/or University-sponsored events) and/or expulsion.

#### **D. Remedies/Sanctions for Violations of Testing Requirement for Unvaccinated Students**

Unvaccinated students who have been granted a medical or religious exemption from the COVID-19 vaccination requirement who fail to submit to COVID testing or to upload their COVID testing results in their Student Health Services portal will receive the following sanctions:

1st missed test: A disciplinary record will be generated and a written warning will be issued.

Missing two (2) consecutive tests: If found responsible, suspension (including revocation of the privilege to attend classes and/or University-sponsored events).

Missing three (3) tests over the course of one (1) semester (including summer sessions): If found responsible, suspension (including revocation of the privilege to attend classes and/or University-sponsored events).