Policy Updates
On Monday, September 13, the City of Springfield by order of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Board of Health, implemented a citywide mask mandate policy, regardless of vaccination status, through November 1, 2021.

In response WNE released an updated Mask Policy on September 17, 2021. Please review the policy. Noteworthy changes are:

Outside: Masks will be required in outdoor public events, where physical distancing of six (6) feet cannot be maintained. This includes but is not limited to; sporting events, homecoming weekend, and other University outdoor sponsored events.

Please make sure you are wearing your mask properly; covering your nose and mouth fully.

Disposable masks should not be washed and reused- if you need a new mask- swing by Health Services we’ll be happy to help you get a new one!

Contractor and Vendor Safety Protocol
WNE has implemented a COVID-19 Contractor and Vendor Safety Protocol. Please familiarize yourself with the content and reach out if you have any questions. The policy will go into effect immediately, and will be posted to the COVID-19 Web page for your reference.

The requirements described in this document apply to all contractors, vendors, their employees, and subcontractors. Contractors working on behalf of Western New England University (WNE) or on any WNE property must follow the health and safety directives described in the document.

Contractors and vendors are responsible for ensuring that all their employees and subcontractors who access WNE property abide by our COVID-19 Safety Standards and Protocols.
COVID-19 Virus Transmission Levels

Hampden County remains at a rating of **HIGH** for COVID-19 transmission, with a 5.3% positivity rate.

Campus Transmission Link: [WNE Fall 2021 COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

**Reminder:** when in doubt check it out!!

- Having symptoms?? Come on by and get a test!
- Worried you might have had a high-risk exposure, **come get a surveillance test.**!

**Vaccination Updates**

**Update on Vaccine Boosters**

No major updates released this past week. Final plan for boosters is still being debated at the national/federal level.

**Graduate Students-Important**

Your term is scheduled to start on September 27. If you haven't already done so, **you must submit proof of vaccination** before the start of classes or you may be subject to administrative action. Please submit your proof of vaccination to covidvac@wne.edu

**Health Services Extended Hours**

Health Services started extended hours this week to improve access to COVID-19 testing and general health care needs. **Effective Monday, September 20, they are now open until 6:00 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays.**

If you have questions or concerns about this weekly update, contact Health Services at Healthservices@wne.edu or 413-782-1211.

Respectfully,

**Basil A. Stewart**  
Vice President for Finance and Administration  
Chair, Emergency Management Response Team (EMRT)

**Kathleen M. Noone**  
Director, Center for Health & Wellness