



# **GENERAL SAFEGUARDING AND POLICIES**

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

Effective as of April 6, 2025

**Updated: April 6, 2025**

THESE POLICIES SUPERSEDE ALL EDITIONS

AS OF

APRIL 6, 2025

AND

PRIOR COPIES SHOULD BE DESTROYED

## **PURPOSE OF POLICIES**

These policies (the “Policies”) have been prepared to inform students, faculty, staff, regulatory bodies and the general community about Jersey College’s policies and procedures that are being implemented with regards to protecting our community against the spread of infectious diseases (e.g., Influenza, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella, COVID, etc.).

The underlying principle for these Policies is that a safe learning environment requires personal responsibility. Individuals should maintain proper hygiene and infection control practices, appropriately use personal protective equipment (“PPE”) and be accountable for self-reporting and isolating. Through personal responsibility, risks can be reduced and in-person campus activity can safely operate.

These Policies are a living document and as such, Jersey College may change, delete, suspend, or discontinue parts of the Policies in response to changes in our environment and our need to promote the health and safety of our community. At all times, Jersey College shall comply with all applicable requirements set forth by the federal government, states and regulatory bodies.

Jersey College is not responsible or liable for errors, omissions or other data which may alter the meaning or context of the policies in these Policies. Every effort is made to see that the policies and rules in this document are accurate and the most current versions available; however, some lapses may occur between the adoption and posting/distribution of new rules and policies.

The term “individual” utilized in these Policies means individually and collectively any Jersey College student, faculty, staff member, or visitor to the College.

Recommendations or suggestions for improvements, as well as suspected violations of the policies and procedures outlined in this document, should be submitted via email to [CAO@jerseycollege.edu](mailto:CAO@jerseycollege.edu).

## SUMMARY OF POLICIES

The following provides a summary of the policies and procedures with respect to promoting the health and safety of individuals at Jersey College. This summary is not a complete description of the policies and individuals are required to review and read the actual policies to ensure compliance. In all cases, students must be fever-free without the aid of medications for 24-hours to participate in College activities.

### *General Policies*

	Action Required
<b>Illness Positive</b>	A minimum of 5-day quarantine from the date symptoms started or if asymptomatic, the date of the test for the illness. The quarantine period may be extended beyond 5-days based on CDC and other medical guidelines.
<b>Close Contacts</b>	Masking within the campus and while engaging in educational activities (i.e., practicums) for 5-days (unless otherwise mandated by state or federal law);
<b>Mask Wearing</b>	Wearing of a mask is permitted on campus, provided it does not interfere with campus operations or other directives from College administration.
<b>Practice Healthy Habits and Be Respectful</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monitor your health, and if you have any symptoms listed on the infectious symptom list, do not come to campus.</li><li>• Respect and honor members of the Jersey College community who wish to maintain their personal space.</li></ul>

# **GENERAL SAFEGUARDING**

## **I. FUNDAMENTAL SAFETY PRINCIPLES**

The health and safety of our community is a shared responsibility with (i) Jersey College developing guidelines, assessing effectiveness, and communicating requirements and recommendations, and (ii) students and staff proactively following the health and safety precautions and reporting instances of non-compliance. The fundamental tenants of our Plan are:

- Maintain proper hygiene, safety, and infection controls and
- Be accountable.

To prevent the spread of infectious diseases, all students, faculty, staff and visitors to a should take the following preventive actions: (i) clean hands often; (ii) avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands; (iii) frequently clean and disinfect surfaces, and (iv) monitor your health.

## **II. COMMUNICATION**

Changes in policies and procedures related to infectious diseases and health and safety protocols at each campus will be communicated through (i) e-mail, (ii) text or (iii) Jersey College's website (<https://www.JerseyCollege.edu/policies>).

## **III. VIOLATIONS OF POLICIES**

Individuals who violate any policies or procedures outlined in this document, engage in irregular behavior or misconduct inconsistent with these policies and procedures, and/or fail to discontinue inappropriate behavior after being warned may be removed from the building, placed on probation or leave, or terminated from the College.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES PROTOCOLS**

### **I. GENERAL QUARANTINE**

Individuals who are positive for an infectious disease are required to quarantine (i.e., access denied from participating in on-campus activities). The quarantine period is a minimum of 5-days from the date symptoms started or if asymptomatic, the date of the test. The quarantine period may be extended beyond 5-days based on CDC and other medical guidelines. In all cases, students must be fever-free without the aid of medications for 24-hours to participate in College activities.

For students, the quarantine may result in administrative leaves of absence for the term due to missed coursework. For faculty and staff, the quarantine may result in a required leave from the College (see handbooks for additional information).

### **II. CLOSE CONTACTS**

Individuals who are determined to be in close contact with an individual with an infectious illness must wear a mask while on campus and while engaging in educational activities (i.e., practicums) for 5 days, unless otherwise mandated by state or federal law.

### **III. SELF-SCREENING AND TEMPERATURE CHECKS**

All students, faculty, staff, and visitors are advised to self-screen prior to participating in any in-person college activity. The self-screening involves asking oneself the following questions. Any individual who answers positively to any of the questions must report their positive answer to their Campus Administrator.

1. Have you been in close contact in the last 5 days with someone who has symptoms of an infectious illness (other than in the capacity of an essential worker and provided such care was undertaken using appropriate PPE and following standard health and safety procedures for essential healthcare workers providing care)?
2. Is your body temperature 100.4 F or higher?
3. Have you tested positive for an infectious illness in the last 5 days?
4. Have you had any of the following symptoms in the last 5 days?
  - Fever or chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea
  - Rashes and/or vesicles

The Campus Administrator (or in his/her absence the Dean of Nursing) will determine in their best judgment whether an individual reporting “Yes” may be allowed entry based on additional discussions and implementation of accommodations (where necessary). The right of entry may not be challenged.

Campuses may, from time to time, conduct temperature checks (either on all individuals or through random testing) on individuals seeking to enter the campus using a non-contact forehead thermometer. These screenings will be conducted using a self-service stand-alone thermometer or a handheld thermometer provided by a College representative.

### **IV. TESTING**

The College advises any student, faculty, or staff member who:

- is experiencing symptoms in the self-assessment above and/or
- has been in close contact with any individual who has tested positive for an infectious disease or is displaying symptoms of such;

to reach out to their healthcare provider and get tested.

Any individual who begins to experience infectious disease symptoms while on campus must promptly notify the administration of their condition via email.

In addition, when possible the individual should immediately leave the campus and return to their home or seek medical assistance. Individuals who develop symptoms while on campus and are unable to leave the campus immediately must temporarily quarantine themselves in the closest private room/area or outside (weather permitting and if the campus has outdoor seating). Such individuals are required to temporarily remain in the quarantine room (or area) until transportation can be arranged – such transportation will include an ambulance for those individuals requiring immediate medical assistance or arranging for pickup by a family member, friend or car service for non-emergency symptomatic individuals.

## **VI. VACCINATION PROTOCOLS**

Jersey College encourages all members of our community to receive vaccinations for all communicable and infectious diseases. Jersey College does not require vaccinations (except as otherwise required by state laws).

Notwithstanding the foregoing, students seeking to participate in clinical experiences at healthcare facilities may be required to provide proof of vaccination for a variety of illnesses, including, but not limited to: (i) Hepatitis B, (ii) Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella, (iii) COVID-19 and (v) Influenza. Students who are not able to comply with clinical facility requirements will be responsible for finding and participating in an approved preceptorship experience (instead of direct-instructor, College-based clinical when allowed by State regulations) to meet course objectives. Students who are unable to find an alternative practicum experience will either be placed on a limited leave (to provide additional time to find an alternative experience and/or become vaccinated) or withdrawn from the College.