

## *Commitment to Shared Responsibility*

### INTRODUCTION

Being a member of the Sterling College community means that each of us must be vigilant and persistent in protecting our own health and each other, on campus and in the greater community. By pledging my Commitment of Shared Responsibility, I will take responsibility for my own health, the protection of others, and to help keep the Sterling community safe from the spread of COVID-19 and other infections as identified and instructed by the College.

I affirm that I have reviewed, am familiar with, and will comply with the College's [Safe and Healthy Return to Campus plan](#), the College's health policies as set forth in the [COVID-19 Handbook](#), and related conduct policies.

I understand that violations of the public health and safety components that are detailed in the Commitment to Shared Responsibility, the College's [Safe and Healthy Return to Campus plan](#), and policies outlined in [COVID-19 Handbook](#) may result in my immediate removal from campus for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis in addition to any sanctions assigned through the College's conduct policies and processes. This also includes any future COVID-19 public health and safety directives from College or other local, state or federal officials.

The Commitment to Shared Responsibility will be an added addendum to our College's Policy of Dangerous and Disruptive Behavior. When a student's behavior constitutes a serious disruption or danger to the living, working, or learning environment that the College seeks to create, the College may respond in a number of ways, from providing needed supplies to mediation to separating the student from the institution, if necessary.

I will take the necessary steps to protect myself and others, including the following:

### PRE-CAMPUS ARRIVAL

- I will follow the state mandated quarantine and travel guidelines that are communicated in Sterling College's [Safe and Healthy Return to Campus Guidelines](#) and the [COVID-19 Handbook](#).
- I will not come to campus if I have any COVID-19 symptoms as defined by the [CDC](#), if I have been in close contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19, if I am awaiting COVID-19 test results, or if I have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days. The CDC defines "close contact" in these circumstances as "someone who was within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated."
- I will travel to the Sterling College campus as directly as possible and will arrive on campus at my designated arrival time.
- I will follow all health and safety precautions during travel, including limiting stops to only those that are necessary, physical distancing from others whenever possible, always wearing a face covering, and using frequent and proper hand hygiene (i.e., washing hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water or using hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available).

## POST-CAMPUS ARRIVAL - Testing, Contact Tracing, Daily Health Screening

- I will comply with all COVID-19 testing protocols as directed by the College and/or local, state, or federal officials including testing, with no out of pocket expense, on day zero, on day seven, and surveillance testing throughout the semester. Testing will be administered by our Director of Wellness Services and/or Copley Hospital in collaboration with Community Health Services of Lamoille Valley ([CHSLV](#)).
- I understand that due to the public health emergency COVID-19 test results will be shared with Sterling College Wellness Center, the Vermont Department of Health, and other health-related agencies as necessary following strict HIPAA confidentiality guidelines.
- I will comply with all confidential contact tracing protocols as directed by the College, the Vermont Department of Health, or other local, state or federal officials, including supplying the names and contact information of other individuals with whom I have been in recent, close contact, to the contact tracer.
- I understand I am encouraged to maintain a contact journal that lists the names of other people with whom I have been in close contact each day. "Close contact" is defined as contact with any person closer than six feet for at least 15 minutes. A journal is not required for situations where there is already a record of individuals at a certain location (e.g., classes or other scheduled events where the list of participants is ordinarily recorded). I agree to share this information with the contact tracer to assist with the contact tracing process.
- Using the Google form designated by the College, I will complete daily health checks (also referred to as "health screenings"), including temperature and [COVID-19 symptom](#) checks, prior to going to class or work or participating in any campus activity. I will also monitor myself for COVID-19 symptoms at all times. I understand that I will not have access to campus locations, outside of my dorm (if a residential student), if I have any COVID-19 symptoms.
- I have procured a thermometer for my personal daily health screenings. If my thermometer breaks or is missing I will immediately obtain another through the Wellness Center.
- In the event that I am sick with any illness I will notify the Director of Wellness Services. I will quarantine in my dorm room (or in my off-campus residence, as applicable) until I receive further guidance from the Director of Wellness Services or other appropriate health official.

### For Residential Students:

- Upon arriving to campus, I agree to remain on campus to complete a 'campus-wide quarantine' for 14 days or until I receive a day seven negative COVID-19 test result. During this time, I understand I may leave my residence hall for individual outdoor activities (or in groups of three or fewer people from within your residential pod) on campus as long as I maintain strict social distancing from all other quarantining individuals and others, including staff. Outdoor activities must be on the public roads within Craftsbury Common or on Sterling College's campus property, including trails shown on Appendix 3 of the Student Handbook. I agree to always have a face covering on my person and understand I need to wear the mask whenever in sight of another person even at a six foot or greater distance. Outdoor activities must be on the roads or on Sterling College's campus property.

## QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION

### For Commuter Students:

- If I experience any symptoms of illness, or if I believe that I have been in [close contact](#) with someone who is positive for COVID-19, I will notify the Director of Wellness Services for guidance. and the Dean of Student Life. I will comply with all isolation, quarantine, and other procedures as directed

by the College or other local, state or federal officials. I agree to self-quarantine in my private residence to avoid exposing others, to undergo COVID-19 testing, and to refrain from physical contact with others except to receive medical care. I will not come to campus except if instructed to do so for a scheduled Covid-19 test. In that case I will remain in my personal vehicle and only leave my vehicle in the company of the college nurse.

- If I receive a positive COVID-19 test at any time, I agree to follow all health directives from the College or other appropriate medical provider. I understand that I may be required to participate in contact tracing and subsequent COVID-19 testing and symptom monitoring during the isolation period.

For Residential Students:

- If I experience any symptoms of illness, or if I believe that I have been in **close contact** with someone who is positive for COVID-19, I will notify the Director of Wellness Services. I will comply with all isolation, quarantine, and other procedures as directed by the College or other local, state or federal officials, including requests to self-quarantine in my room to avoid exposing others, to undergo COVID-19 testing, and/or temporary transfer to isolation housing and refraining from physical contact with others except to receive medical care.
- While in self-quarantine, I will stay in my bedroom and will not leave that room for any reason except to use the bathroom, use the kitchen or in case of a health or other emergency. When leaving my room to use the bathroom, kitchen, or in case of an emergency, I will wear a mask at all times (except for when personal grooming (shower, etc), and I will adhere to strict physical distancing requirements around others. I will have no visitors. I understand that meals will be delivered to me. When in quarantine, I will submit my daily symptom report directly to the Department of Health via their [Sara Alert](#) system.
- If I receive a positive COVID-19 test at any time, I agree to move to specific isolation housing, if directed to do so, and follow all health directives from the College or other appropriate medical provider. I understand that I will be required to participate in contact tracing, symptom monitoring and reporting, and possible subsequent COVID-19 testing during the isolation period.

## FACE COVERINGS

All Students:

- I will wear a face covering when on campus and when in the presence of others outside of my household unit off campus as required by Sterling College policies and state regulations. Exceptions to the face covering requirement are:
  - When I am alone in a private space.
  - When I am in my own dorm room, residential pod or off- campus residence.
  - When I am eating in an appropriately physically distanced location from others.
  - When outside and actively participating in strenuous exercise at a minimum of 6 feet away from others.
  - I understand that while face coverings are not absolutely required in these exceptions, discretion must be exercised and a face covering must always be carried on my person.
- I understand a face covering should be readily available to put on quickly in the event that distancing becomes impossible during interpersonal interactions, or when occupying shared spaces. I will always carry a face covering with me on and off campus, in the event circumstances warrant its use.
- My face covering will fit securely and snugly against the sides of my face, extend from below my chin to above my nose, and cover my nose and mouth completely.

- I agree to maintain and regularly clean a minimum of four reusable face coverings supplied by me or by the College. If I use single-day-use masks, I will supply them myself and dispose of them responsibly.

## SOCIAL DISTANCING & OCCUPANCY LIMITS

All Students:

- I will maintain a physical distance of at least six feet from others outside of my household unit to the greatest extent possible, while on and off campus.
- I will comply with all maximum occupancy requirements, signage, and floor markings posted in all campus spaces (e.g., classrooms, labs, event spaces, break rooms, common spaces, and lounges).

## FACIAL COVERINGS & SOCIAL DISTANCING - Residential Pods

I understand no outside visitors will be allowed in residence halls. Outside visitors include commuter students, students from outside your residential pod that are not close contacts with one of my podmates other residential pods, faculty and staff, unless approved by the Dean of Student Life. 'Household' unit consists of the individual(s) you choose to be '[close-contacts](#)' with (i.e. not wear face coverings, not maintain social distancing). I understand that because of the high-risk nature of congregate living, I am only able to maintain ONE of the following:

- Be '[close-contacts](#)' with my residential podmates. Do not need to maintain social distance or wear face coverings when interacting with residential pod-mates, who are considered part of your 'household' unit. I understand that I can use my own discretion in deciding if I would like to maintain social distance or wear face coverings when interacting with residential pod-mates.
- Be '[close-contact](#)' with *ONE* individual outside of your residential pod. Do not need to maintain social distance or wear face coverings when interacting with the *one individual* outside of your residential pod, as this individual would be considered your 'household' unit.

If I choose to be a close-contact with *ONE* individual outside of my residential pod I need to inform my Community Advisor *AND* instructor(s) so they can make the appropriate arrangements and accommodations to ensure COVID compliance in the residential hall and in the classroom. Additionally:

- When visiting with the *ONE* individual outside of my residential pod:
  - I will remain masked when entering their residential hall and whenever outside of their dorm room.
  - If there is a roommate, we will ensure they are not present during my visit.
- When interacting with my residential pod *and* during class:
  - I will remain masked and six feet away from my classmates and instructors.

## HYGIENE

- I will frequently and thoroughly maintain hygiene by regular hand washing, at least 20 seconds, with soap and warm water or using hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- I will at all times avoid touching my face with my hands.
- I will not share utensils, glasses, pens or pencils, laptops, keyboards, microphones, toothbrushes, or other similar personal products.
- I will frequently sanitize or disinfect my high-touch surfaces, such as phone screens, keyboards, tables, desks, etc.
- I will responsibly dispose of any sanitizing or disinfecting wipes and related materials.
- I will cover my mouth and nose with tissues or use the inside of my elbow when I cough or sneeze. I will throw all tissues in the trash and immediately wash my hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.

- I will keep my residential space clean and will clean shared spaces and surfaces before and after use (e.g., bathrooms, classroom tables and desks, and study spaces). I will use cleaning supplies provided by the College to clean shared spaces.

## OTHER SAFETY REQUIREMENTS/COMMUNITY STANDARDS

- I will not invite or host guests, including students who are studying remotely, into the College.
- I will comply with all requirements regarding off-campus travel, social gatherings, and events.
- I will be respectful and attentive to anyone who needs help or a reminder about community expectations.
- I will avoid bias-based discrimination. I understand and acknowledge that the current COVID-19 outbreak has provoked bias and discriminatory behaviors against people of certain racial and ethnic backgrounds. We know that the virus does not differentiate with respect to race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, or physical ability. During this time of great uncertainty based on the COVID-19 pandemic, I will treat my peers, faculty, and staff with the respect every human being deserves and not promote, participate in, or allow my own bias to impede the access and opportunity of others in my community. (See the CDC's statement on [Reducing Stigma](#)).