

ASSEMBLY, No. 5330

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 29, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes protocols for notification and isolation in the event of COVID-19 infections at institutions of higher education and requires Secretary of Higher Education to develop data dashboard on COVID-19.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/22/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning COVID-19 infection in institutions of higher
2 education and supplementing P.L.1994, c.48 (C.18A:3B-1 et al.).
3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*
6

7 1. As used in this act, "COVID-19" means the coronavirus
8 disease 2019, as announced by the World Health Organization on
9 February 11, 2020, and first identified in Wuhan, China.
10

11 2. a. (1) During a public health emergency declared by the
12 Governor in response to COVID-19, pursuant to the "Emergency
13 Health Powers Act," P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et seq.), an
14 institution of higher education that receives a report of a lab-
15 confirmed positive test result of COVID-19 or a death related to
16 COVID-19 with respect to an enrolled student, employee,
17 volunteer, or visitor shall ensure that all members of the higher
18 education community, including but not limited to students,
19 employees, volunteers, and visitors, shall receive notice of the
20 confirmed case or death within 24 hours of the initial report. The
21 notice shall be consistent with all State and federal privacy laws.
22 The institution shall not be required to provide notice of a lab-
23 confirmed positive test result of COVID-19 or death related to
24 COVID-19 with respect to an individual who is not reporting to or
25 attending the campus or an institution activity in-person.

26 (2) Each institution of higher education shall designate an
27 existing employee as a primary point of contact for inquiries from
28 members of the institution's community on data, policies, and other
29 information pertaining to COVID-19. The institution shall display
30 the contact information for the designee in a prominent location on
31 the institution's website.

32 (3) Each institution of higher education shall display a data
33 dashboard detailing the number of COVID-19 reports received
34 pursuant to this subsection. The dashboard shall provide separate
35 data for the number of COVID-19 reports received pursuant to this
36 subsection of students who have attended in-person activities but
37 who have not attended in-person classes. The information shall be
38 reported for each campus of an institution, where applicable. The
39 data dashboard shall be displayed in a prominent location on the
40 institution's website.

41 b. An institution of higher education shall exclude from in-
42 person activities, in accordance with Centers for Disease Control
43 and Prevention guidelines, any student, employee, volunteer, or
44 visitor who:

45 (1) self-reports experiencing symptoms of COVID-19;

46 (2) has received a lab-confirmed positive test result for COVID-
47 19; or

1 (3) is a close contact or immediate family member of an
2 individual who has received a lab-confirmed positive test result for
3 COVID-19.

4 c. Each institution of higher education shall establish a
5 protocol to log the contact information of campus visitors, to the
6 greatest extent practicable. The log shall include the contact
7 information of each visitor and the date and time of such visits.

8 d. Each institution of higher education shall notify the
9 Secretary of Higher Education and the Commissioner of Health
10 upon receipt of each report of a lab-confirmed positive test result of
11 COVID-19 or a death related to COVID-19 with respect to an
12 enrolled student, employee, volunteer, or visitor of the institution of
13 higher education.

14 e. The institution of higher education shall assist the local
15 health department in identifying an affected individual's close
16 contacts within the institution. The institution shall designate at
17 least one existing employee to assist the local health department
18 with contact tracing, as needed.

19 The institution shall not permit close contacts to enter the
20 campus or its facilities during such period of exclusion as is
21 recommended by the local health department.

22 f. In the event that an institution of higher education receives a
23 report of a lab-confirmed positive test result of COVID-19 or a
24 death related to COVID-19 with respect to an enrolled student,
25 employee, volunteer, or visitor after the expiration of the public
26 health emergency declared by the Governor in response to COVID-
27 19, pursuant to the "Emergency Health Powers Act," P.L.2005,
28 c.222 (C.26:13-1 et seq.), the provisions of this section shall apply
29 only upon the direction of the Commissioner of Health.

30
31 3. a. The Secretary of Higher Education, in consultation with
32 the Commissioner of Health, shall oversee the development and
33 maintenance of a data dashboard that collects and tracks the
34 information received from institutions of higher education pursuant
35 to section 2 of this act. The information maintained in the data
36 dashboard shall include, by institution:

37 (1) the number of reports received of lab-confirmed positive test
38 results of COVID-19 with respect to enrolled students, employees,
39 volunteers, and visitors of institutions of higher education;

40 (2) the number of reports received of lab-confirmed positive test
41 results of COVID-19 with respect to enrolled students who attended
42 in-person activities but did not attend in-person classes; and

43 (3) the number of reports received of deaths related to COVID-
44 19 with respect to enrolled students, employees, volunteers, and
45 visitors of institutions of higher education.

46 b. The data dashboard developed pursuant to subsection a. of
47 this section shall be prominently displayed on the website of the
48 Secretary of Higher Education and shall be updated each business

1 day. The data dashboard shall include a mechanism for an
2 individual to make a report to the secretary of an institution that
3 fails to meet its reporting obligations pursuant to subsection d. of
4 section 2 of this act.

5

6 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

7

8

9

STATEMENT

10

11 This bill requires institutions of higher education to provide
12 information to their school communities on the number of students,
13 employees, and other members of the institution's community who
14 are infected with, or have died as a result of, COVID-19. The bill
15 also restricts, in accordance with CDC guidelines, any member of
16 the community who is infected with COVID-19, or at certain risk of
17 infection, from in-person activities.

18 Under the bill, if an institution of higher education receives a
19 report of a lab-confirmed positive test result of COVID-19 or a
20 death related to COVID-19 with respect to an enrolled student,
21 employee, volunteer, or visitor, they must ensure that all members
22 of the higher education community receive notice of the confirmed
23 case or death within 24 hours of the initial report. The notice must
24 be consistent with all State and federal privacy laws.

25 The bill also provides that each institution of higher education
26 must designate an existing employee as a primary point of contact
27 for inquiries from members of the institution's community on data,
28 policies, and other information pertaining to COVID-19.
29 Additionally, the bill directs each institution of higher education to
30 display a data dashboard detailing the number of COVID-19 reports
31 received pursuant to the bill.

32 Under the bill, an institution of higher education must, in
33 accordance with CDC guidelines, restrict in-person activities of any
34 student, employee, volunteer, or visitor who:

- 35 (1) self-reports experiencing symptoms of COVID-19;
- 36 (2) has received a lab-confirmed positive test result for COVID-
37 19; or
- 38 (3) is a close contact or immediate family member of an
39 individual who has received a lab-confirmed positive test result for
40 COVID-19.

41 The bill directs each institution of higher education to establish a
42 protocol to log the contact information of campus visitors. The bill
43 also directs each institution to notify the Secretary of Higher
44 Education and the Commissioner of Health upon receipt of each
45 report of a lab-confirmed positive test result of COVID-19 or a
46 death related to COVID-19 with respect to an enrolled student,
47 employee, volunteer, or visitor of the institution. The institution
48 must also assist the local health department in identifying an

1 affected individual's close contacts within the institution's
2 community. The institution is directed to designate at least one
3 existing employee to assist the local health department with contact
4 tracing, as needed.

5 The institution of higher education cannot permit close contacts
6 to enter the school or its facilities during such period of exclusion
7 as is recommended by the local health department.

8 Finally, the bill directs the Secretary of Higher Education, in
9 consultation with the Commissioner of Health, to oversee the
10 development and maintenance of a data dashboard that collects and
11 tracks the information received from institutions of higher
12 education pursuant to the bill.

13 The data dashboard must be prominently displayed on the
14 website of the secretary and will be updated each business day. The
15 data dashboard must also include a mechanism for an individual to
16 make a report to the secretary of an institution of higher education
17 that fails to meet its reporting obligations pursuant to the bill's
18 provisions.