

## COVID-19 Testing Information for Commencement

Dear Graduates,

Congratulations! You have achieved so much under difficult circumstances, and we look forward to your upcoming graduation! This message includes important information for ensuring the health and safety of all attendees at the commencement ceremonies.

**IMPORTANT:** Each graduate must have a ticket for admission to their commencement ceremony; tickets may be reserved at no charge starting at 10 a.m., Monday, May 3.

**[Details about reserving your ticket were sent separately.](#)**

All graduates must report to Frank Ritter Ice Arena two hours before the start of their ceremony. At that time, and in compliance with NYS regulations, all graduates must produce a photo ID (e.g., RIT ID, driver's license, government issued ID) and one of the following:

- Proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID -19 two weeks (14 days) prior to your ceremony
- Evidence of a negative COVID-19 PCR test administered within 3 days of your ceremony
- Evidence of a negative COVID-19 rapid antigen test administered within 6 hours of the start of your ceremony

- Evidence of recovery from a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19, within the 90 days prior to your ceremony (e.g. proof of a prior positive test result or completed order of isolation)

Graduates will also be required to pass a daily health screen confirming that they do not have any symptoms of COVID-19, were not recently exposed to anyone with COVID-19, and are in compliance with the [NYS travel advisory](#).

Upon satisfying these requirements, graduates will receive the ticket they reserved, which will allow them to be admitted to their commencement ceremony.

### **COVID-19 Testing Options:**

- All graduates (including the Class of 2020) are able to obtain a COVID-19 PCR test on campus in Frank Ritter Ice Arena. To take advantage of on-campus testing, tests must be administered 3 days prior to one's graduation day. Tests are available by appointment only. Students who wish to get a COVID-19 PCR test at RIT must register for an appointment on their assigned day – see schedule below. Schedule your appointment at <https://campusgroups.rit.edu/tigertesting/departure-and-commencement/>.
  - Students graduating on Friday, May 14, may get a COVID-19 PCR test only on Tuesday, May 11.
  - Students graduating on Saturday, May 15, may get a COVID-19 PCR test only on Wednesday, May 12.
  - Students graduating on Sunday, May 16, may get a COVID-19 PCR test only on Thursday, May 13.
- If you cannot participate in on-campus testing on your designated day, you should be tested at an off-campus location and bring your test result with you.
- To find a location near you, google “free COVID testing near me” or check with your local department of public health.
- Remember that the PCR test must be administered within 3 days of the start of your ceremony; a rapid antigen test must be administered 6 hours prior to the start of your ceremony.
- A very limited number of rapid test appointments on the days of the ceremonies will be available for students with extenuating circumstances. We do not recommend that you wait until the day of your graduation to be tested. If a

student tests positive for COVID-19, they will not be allowed to participate in commencement ceremonies or remain on campus.

### **Proof of Vaccination:**

- If you are a New York State resident, evidence of your COVID-19 vaccination can include the **Excelsior Pass**. It is a quick and easy way to provide proof of full vaccination.
- You can bring your vaccination card or receipt with the name of the vaccine and the date(s) of your shots. A photo or screenshot of your vaccination card with your name, the name of the vaccine and the date(s) of the shots is also acceptable.
  - If you are graduating on Friday, May 14, your last shot must have been administered no later than April 29.
  - If you are graduating on Saturday, May 15, your last shot must have been administered no later than April 30.
  - If you are graduating on Sunday, May 16, your last shot must have been administered no later than May 1.

During your graduation ceremony, physical distancing will be observed, and masks will be required at all times, except for photographs by GradImages as part of the ceremony.

We appreciate your cooperation with these health and safety requirements. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the RIT Service Center at 585-475-5000 or [help.rit.edu](http://help.rit.edu).

Sincerely,

Susan T. Provenzano  
Chair, Commencement Planning Committee

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