



Penelope the NOVA Police Cat reminds you to maintain social distance

NOVA Public Safety Newsletter



Social Distancing Tip from Penelope

With the start of the new semester, NOVA is taking active steps to keep you safe and healthy. Check out the College’s website at www.nvcc.edu to find information on steps you can take to keep minimize your risk of infection.

One of the most important things you can do is to practice social distancing. In general, try to maintain at least six feet of space between you and others, and if you cannot, be sure to wear a face covering. Social distancing is all about being aware of your immediate surroundings and protecting others from proximate contact.

Here, Penelope the NOVA Police Cat demonstrates how to protect your social distance through situational awareness and space management. Check out Penelope’s safety tips in any Public Safety Newsletter. If you cannot get enough of Penelope, follow her on Instagram at: [@penelopenovapolicecat](https://www.instagram.com/penelopenovapolicecat).

The Year of the Mask

NOVA’s COVID-19 Face Covering Policy 120 <https://www.nvcc.edu/policies/policies.aspx?num=120>, consistent with recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Governor Northam’s Executive Order 63, requires all NOVA faculty, staff, students, contractors, and visitors to wear a face covering in certain situations. The face covering should cover your mouth and nose and is required while on College property, indoors or out, when social distancing of at least six (6) feet cannot be maintained.

So why require a face covering? The CDC says face coverings reduce the risk of spreading or contracting COVID-19, especially when practiced in concert with other hygiene activities such as frequent and through hand washing.

We should all embrace this “new normal”. Face coverings come in all shapes, sizes, and colors and can be used to express your style or flare. Here’s important about face coverings, NOVA’s policy, and the NOVA Police Department’s role.

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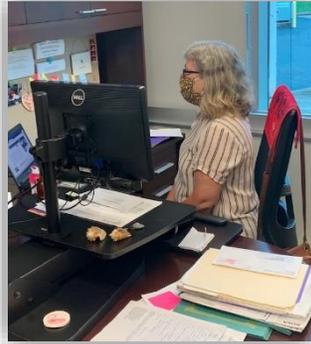
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Police Dispatch
(703) 764-5000
Call Us 24/7/365

NOVApolice@nvcc.edu

The Year of the Mask (cont'd)

Despite face covering requirements, you may see people without them, and that may be ok. There are reasons why an individual may be excluded from this policy. Refer to NOVA COVID policy about exemptions. If there is still a concern, discuss the matter with a supervisor or HR as appropriate. Policy 120 states “any person who declines to wear a face covering because of a medical condition shall not be required to produce or carry medical documentation verifying the stated condition nor shall the person be required to identify the precise underlying medical condition”.

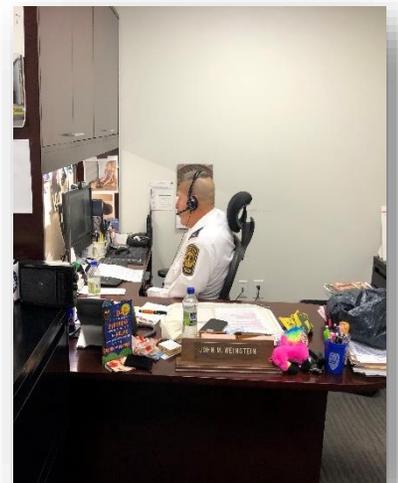


Whether or not one wears a mask, it is important to maintain social distance for their wellbeing and that of others. If you feel it necessary to report suspected noncompliance with NOVA'S mask policy, please report this disciplinary matter to the campus Dean of Students or, for employees, to the Office of Human Resources at employeerelations@nvcc.edu. (Note: NOVA police are not responsible for enforcing this College policy.) Visitors on campus who do not adhere to the policy may be asked to leave the campus in accordance with NOVA's Trespass Notices Policy. By doing your part you can assist NOVA in maintaining a safe learning experience here at NOVA.

NOVA Police *Virtual* Training

NOVA Police welcome you to the College and wish you every success in the coming semester. Your police department is all about service and creating secure campuses at which you can pursue your studies without distractions about your personal safety.

At the same time, we all have a role in this important goal so a big part of what the police do is empower you to keep yourself and your campuses safe. We do this through an active training program in which we provide relevant information in an entertaining format to faculty groups, classroom, and clubs. Topics include how to respond to an active shooter, how to de-escalate conflict, everything you ever wanted to know about the police but were afraid to ask, how to create and maintain a safe classroom environment, how to stay safe on the streets, how to apply a tourniquet, and many more.



NOVA Police *Virtual* Training (cont'd)

In the past, our presentations were always delivered in-person. Now, with concerns about COVID-19 and the resulting emphasis on virtual learning, in-person presentations are not currently viable. This doesn't mean we cannot offer this important information to you. We are now offering our presentations via Zoom. If you would like to have a presentation to a class or at a faculty or staff meeting, please contact us at novapdoutreach@nvcc.edu. For the full list of NOVA Police training topics, check out the last page of any recent Public Safety Newsletter, found at <https://www.nvcc.edu/police/psnewsletters.html>. If there is some topic you would like to hear, please contact us with your request at the email address above.

Safety Tips for the New Semester

New semesters are busy, with much to do as you prepare for success. Emergency preparedness should not be overlooked during your preparations. Below are five tips the Office of Emergency Management and Safety (OEMS) recommends for your safety.

1	Sign up for NOVA Alert	NOVA Alert is a messaging system that provides you with timely information about emergencies on campus. Go to (http://alert.nvcc.edu/) to sign up or to update your contact information.
2	Review Emergency Procedures	Review emergency procedures so you know what to do in the event of a campus emergency. Go to the OEMS home page, at www.nvcc.edu/emergency for the College's Emergency Action Plan and other important information.
3	Be Ready in the Classroom	Faculty should review emergency procedures with students. OEMS provides faculty with a syllabus insert, Emergency Procedures, and a College safety video. Faculty should also discuss the College's policies during severe weather closures. Students should know campus emergency procedures.
4	Make a Plan	Be prepared at home, too! Update your family communication plan (or make one if you do not have one). If something happens, you will want to communicate with your loved ones. Decide how family members will contact each other if you're apart when the disaster occurs, where you will go if you need to leave home, and where you will gather inside the home (e.g., a safe room or basement). Establish an out-of-town contact. It's also a good idea to have a list of important phone numbers (family, schools, care providers, doctors, insurance agents, employers, etc.). Don't forget to practice your plan. Visit www.ready.gov/make-a-plan for more information.
5	Build a Kit	You never know where you will be when an emergency happens. You may be on campus, in your car, or at home. Replenish or set aside food, water, and general supplies you may need for 72 hours after an emergency. This may include medicine, copies of prescriptions, flashlights, extra batteries, blankets, first aid supplies, personal hygiene items, appropriate seasonal clothing, cash, a battery operated or crank radio, a weather radio, cell phones and chargers, important documents, and other useful supplies. Find out what you should have in your kits at www.ready.gov/build-a-kit .

Today more than ever the option to work and learn from home is being used by thousands of businesses and organizations, creating personal connections and productivity without in-person contact. Communications allow video and audio conferencing, webinars, live chats, and screen-sharing. While these provide a reasonably reliable and secure platform for these interactions, users should take measures to ensure safety and security.

Some precautions are standard. For every account you should apply basic protections. Use a strong and unique password, protect your account with at least two-factor authentication, and avoid sharing or exposing your password to others.

Another precaution is paying attention to screen sharing, be aware of your surroundings when using audio or video, the use of password protected meetings, and knowing the meeting security features as a host.

Screen sharing is relatively safe; privileges to specific users can be provided by the host in a meeting or class. While screen sharing you're protected from outsiders but users still need to be aware. While you are screen-sharing, any open documents, sites, and images can be viewed by others including your boss or professor. Make sure all open content during your meeting is work or school appropriate.

Be mindful of your surroundings. Before you jump into an on line meeting or class, consider what people will see or hear when you join. It is a good idea to notify household members what you are doing and when you may be available again. Even if you're home alone, your colleagues or classmates will expect you to be fully dressed, have basic grooming, and enter the session much the same as you would a typical day at work or class. We have all seen the internet videos with embarrassing interruptions. Don't be that person!

Finally, if you are hosting, you need to know the security features of your platform. To prevent unwanted distractions, familiarize yourself with creating a waiting room so individuals are unable to enter unannounced. Require the host to be present before the meeting or class begins. Understand how to stop or remove the screen or audio sharing capabilities to ensure any distractions or inappropriate material can be addressed immediately.

Although we must take precautions, technology has made assessable remote collaboration for work and class gatherings easily accessible allowing us to move forward in these difficult times. Smartphones keep us connected and provide the ability to use them for public health and safety. The personal interactions via virtual platform, when used safely and correctly, make working from home more enjoyable and socially productive.

2020 NOVA Police Training

NOVA Police conduct an active community outreach program. The following topics are available for presentation to faculty, students, clubs, staff, and community organizations via Zoom or in-person. If there are topics you would like presented or would like to request additional topics, please contact us at novapdoutreach@nvcc.edu.

Topics:

- Active Shooter Response
- Dealing with Difficult People
- Creating and Maintaining a Safe Classroom Environment
- Staying Safe on the Street/Self-Defense Considerations
- Alcohol/DUI Awareness
- Stop the Bleed Tourniquet Certification
- Recognizing/Reporting Suspicious Behavior
- CPR and AED Certification
- Staying Safe While Using Uber and Lyft
- Technology and Policing
- Empower Yourself to be Safe!
- Writing in the Workplace
- Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Police (But Were Afraid to Ask)
- Ticket Avoidance Strategies
- Crimes Against Women/Human Trafficking
- Gangs and Drugs

Download the LiveSafe Mobile Safety App

The LiveSafe Mobile Safety app, available for free to all NOVA faculty, students, staff and their friends. This powerful tool can empower you to stay safe, keep your campus safe, put potentially life-saving information at your fingertips, and facilitate timely interaction with NOVA Police and OEMS professionals in the event of an emergency or need for assistance. Download LiveSafe at iTunes or Google Play. It is easy and fast. Go to www.LiveSafeMobile.com to download this great app.



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