July 31, 2020

Dear students:

Welcome! Whether you’re coming to the city for the first time, returning for another year of study, or living here full-time, we’re glad you’re learning in New Haven.

The City of New Haven is the cultural capital of Connecticut. We’re proud of the colleges and universities in our region: Albertus Magnus College, Gateway Community College, Southern Connecticut State University, University of New Haven, Quinnipiac and Yale University. You and your fellow students, and the faculty and staff of your schools, live here, work here, and contribute to the city’s innovation, culture, and vibrancy.

Connecticut and New Haven are currently faring relatively well in the fight against the novel coronavirus. We have had a number of days of zero COVID-19 fatalities, hospitalizations across the state have been under 100 for quite some time, and our daily positivity rates have been around 1%. These metrics, along with the establishment of robust testing and contact tracing programs, have enabled the State to move into Phase 2 of reopening, allowing the partial resumption of operations of most businesses and organizations.

As you eat, shop, walk, and visit in New Haven, please do your part to reduce the spread of coronavirus by following federal, state, and city guidance, and your college or university’s regulations. Amongst other measures, it is vitally important to wear a mask, keep socially distant, and wash your hands frequently.

I hope you will also think hard about the ongoing legacies of racism in this country and city, including the disproportionate effects of coronavirus on Black and other minority citizens. Please open your mind to new ideas and possibilities, recognize injustices, and consider individual and community action as you learn and prepare for careers and service here and worldwide.

New Haven is a great place to be a student. Visit the parks, restaurants, shops, and galleries; get to know the Elm City. As you study and explore, keep in mind the health and wellbeing of everyone in our great and diverse city. We have included some resources of ways to explore and become involved with New Haven for your convenience.
This will be a year like no other. I know you will rise to the challenge. Welcome, once again, to 2020–21 in New Haven.

Sincerely,

Justin Elicker
Mayor of New Haven

Resources:

1. Map of New Haven’s Green Spaces: https://newhavenct.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MyApp/index.html?appid=41e299c193284a5db0a8cad227b972f3
5. CitySeed Farmers’ Markets: https://cityseed.org/
6. Register to Vote: https://voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR/welcome.do