FAQs for COVID Housing Assignments

**Isolation**
Isolation housing is reserved for known positive cases, persons with a positive antigen test awaiting a confirmatory PCR test result, and for persons under investigation (PUI) who may have COVID symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, body aches, fatigue) and are awaiting a COVID test result.

**Q: When will I be able to leave isolation?**
A: Typically, isolation lasts 10 days after the date of collection of a positive test (if asymptomatic) or 10 days after symptom onset. Even if you have been fully vaccinated against COVID, you **will need to isolate** for the full 10 days if you have a positive test result.

The duration of isolation can be prolonged depending on the development of fever or other symptoms which need to be closely monitored. Please note that the date of collection or the day of symptom onset counts as Day 0 when determining how to clear from isolation. You will not be retested for COVID during this period.

For individuals who have COVID-like symptoms but test negative for COVID, they will typically be cleared once a negative test is received as long as there is no fever or severe symptoms and they are improving. Some individuals who have symptoms will remain in isolation, even if their COVID test is negative, if there is a strong suspicion of COVID. Based on the plan developed with their provider, they may require a repeat test.

Q: When do I get retested?
A: You should not get any viral test (antigen/PCR/saliva) for 90 days after a positive COVID-19 test, unless you are feeling ill and testing would be at the discretion of the clinician.

Q: Can I get reinfected with COVID-19?
A: Although this is still considered rare, it is not impossible. In this situation, a referral to an Infectious Disease expert may be warranted.

Q: How will I get food if I am in isolation housing?
A: Students will be provided with a Grub Hub account. Instructions on how to access these services will be in an email sent to you through residential life. You will also receive an Instacart gift card to supplement your food supply.

Q: How does contact tracing work?
A: After the provider from Health Services discusses the positive test with you, a contact tracer from Health Services will call you to identify your close contacts. Close contacts are people who were within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period. It does not matter if you or the contact were wearing masks or not. Even if you know that your contact has been fully vaccinated, we will still need their information as we will need to evaluate them for symptoms and schedule subsequent COVID testing. The contact tracer will call each individual contact and notify them that they have been identified as a close contact to COVID-19. The contact tracer will **NOT** identify the name of the COVID-19 positive individual.
Q: Will anyone be checking on me while I am in isolation housing?
A: A clinical staff member from Health Services will contact you daily. This can be done either on the phone or via a Zoom visit depending upon your preference. If you are having any symptoms or there are other medical concerns, a staff member from Health Services or the overnight EMT can examine you in your isolation room. There is an emergency medical technician (EMT) on-campus from 7p-3a to address any medical emergencies and they may be reaching out as well either by email/phone or in-person according to your preference. In order to have the EMT respond to your location, you will need to call the CRC at 845-437-7333 (emergencies) or 845-437-5221 (non-emergencies).

Quarantine

Quarantine is typically reserved for individuals who have been exposed to COVID, but who don’t necessarily have any symptoms. These individuals are considered close contacts.

Q: If I am a close contact to COVID, do I need to quarantine if I am fully vaccinated?
A: If you completed a vaccine series more than 2 weeks prior to your exposure AND you are not experiencing symptoms of Covid, then you do NOT need to quarantine. You are encouraged to monitor yourself for the development of symptoms and wear a mask when around indoors for 14 days after your exposure. You should also obtain a COVID test 3-5 days after your last exposure to the positive case. If you develop symptoms during the 14-day monitoring period, isolate yourself and notify Health Services to arrange for evaluation and testing.

Q: When can I be off quarantine?
A: Quarantine typically lasts 10 days from the date of last exposure to a positive individual. NYS Department of Health does not recognize the 7-day quarantine that is proposed by the CDC. If symptoms develop, or if a quarantined individual tests positive within those 10 days, they will be moved into isolation housing.

Q: Do I need to be tested while on quarantine?
A: We strongly recommend that any close contacts to a positive case of COVID get tested while on quarantine. If you are fully vaccinated, we recommend testing 4-5 days after your last exposure. If you have not been vaccinated, we recommend tests be taken within 24 hours of entering quarantine, 4-5 days into quarantine and 7-8 days into quarantine. These tests will need to be scheduled through Health Services. Please call 845-437-5800 to schedule an appointment. Unfortunately, despite negative test results, you will still need to quarantine for a total of 10 days after last exposure if you are unvaccinated or if you are experiencing symptoms of concern. In certain situations, more frequent testing may be recommended for you, but this will be performed in consultation with a provider in Health Services.

Q: How will I know if I have a positive test?
A: If the test was performed by Westchester Medical Center Staff:
   If there is a positive test, Quest labs will notify a representative from Westchester Medical Center. This representative will reach out to you directly and will also notify the Director of Health Services at Vassar College. Subsequently a provider from Health Services
will then call you to discuss the result. Results will be available through the WMC portal or the
HealthLife app if the test was taken at the Aula.

If the test was performed at Health Services:

Tests taken at Health Services will not be posted to the WMC portal or the HealthLife
app. If there is a positive test, Quest labs will notify the ordering provider in Health Services via
faxed results. Once received, a provider from Health Services will then call you to discuss the
result. Results will be available through the Quest Patient Portal
https://myquest.questdiagnostics.com/web/home

It is possible that results may be available for your review before Health Services is
notified, so if you see a positive result and have not yet been called by a provider, please contact
Health Services at 845-437-5800 to discuss how to proceed. Please be aware that if you test
positive while in quarantine, your isolation period of 10 days starts from the date of the positive
test or the date of symptom onset.

You will need to upload all Fall 2021 Post Arrival test results (positive or negative) into
your Vassar College Patient portal at vassar.medicatconnect.com.

Q: If I have been identified as a close contact to a positive case and I am put on quarantine,
do my close contacts need to have special housing or get tested for COVID?
A: No, your close contacts are considered “contacts of a contact” and no special testing or
accommodations are needed. Continue to encourage all close contacts to practice physical
distancing, mask wearing and good hygiene practices.

Q: What if I have had COVID previously?
A: If you have had a positive COVID test within the past 90 days from your exposure to a
positive case, your symptoms are completely resolved and you are identified as a close contact,
you will NOT need to quarantine. Please advise Health Services if this applies to you.

Q: What if I had the COVID-19 vaccine previously?
A: If you have received both doses of the Covid-19 vaccine and it has been more than 2 weeks
since your last dose then you will not need to quarantine. You must notify Health Services if this
is the case and will need to present documentation of both vaccine dates if not already uploaded
into the patient portal.

Q: How will I get food if I am on quarantine?
A: Students will be provided with a Grub Hub account. Instructions on how to access these
services will be in an email sent to you through residential life. You will also receive an
Instacart gift card to supplement your food supply.

Q: Will anyone be reaching out to me while I am in quarantine housing?
A: You will receive a daily e-mail from Health Services that will include support numbers for
your reference. Please reply to the e-mail or call Health Services if you are experiencing any
symptoms or have any medical needs or concerns. There is an emergency medical technician
(EMT) on-campus from 7p-3a to address any medical emergencies and they may be reaching out
as well either by email/phone or in-person according to your preference. In order to have the
EMT respond to your location, you will need to call the CRC at 845-437-7333 (emergencies) or 845-437-5221 (non-emergencies).

**Temporary Housing/Hampton Inn**

Temporary housing is reserved for those without a valid pre-arrival test or for unvaccinated international travelers who are required to quarantine for 7 days after entering the U.S. Students who do not have a valid pre-arrival test will remain in temporary housing until rapid antigen testing can be arranged through Health Services during normal business hours.

**Q: When can I leave temporary housing?**

**A:** Once the appropriate COVID tests are resulted you will be cleared by Health Services to leave temporary residence. Health Services may reach out to you while in temporary housing to obtain a travel history from you in order to provide appropriate testing recommendations and subsequent clearance. You will need to check-out at the front desk of the hotel before you leave.

**Q: How do I check-in/check-out at the hotel?**

**A:** At the front desk you will advise the hotel staff that you are a Vassar College student and you will be provided with room keys. The Residential Life team is aware of all students in special housing arrangements and will send you an e-mail that has further instructions or you can call the CRC (845) 437-5221 and ask to speak to the Administrator On Call (AOC).

Prior to checking-out of the hotel, be sure to turn in your keys and advise the front desk that you are vacating the room. They will notify the Residential Life team that you have left the facility. If you need assistance with transportation, please contact the AOC or Safety for further guidance.

**Q: How will I get food at the hotel?**

**A:** Students will be provided with a Grub Hub account. Instructions on how to access these services will be in an email sent to you through residential life. You will also receive an Instacart gift card to supplement your food supply. There is a free continental breakfast offered at the hotel daily.

**Q: What if I have medical or mental health needs while in temporary housing?**

**A:** If you develop any COVID symptoms or have any medical needs or concerns while in temporary housing call Health Services directly at 845-437-5800 to speak to the night nurse triage service. There is an emergency medical technician (EMT) on-campus from 7p-3a to address any medical and to provide medical or mental health support. In order to have the EMT respond to your location, you will need to call the CRC at 845-437-7333 (emergencies) or 845-437-5221 (non-emergencies). If you have a life-threatening emergency call 911 directly. If you are having a mental health concern you can call the CRC and request to speak to the counselor on call.

**Q: How will I know if I have a positive test?**

**A:** If the test was performed by Westchester Medical Center Staff at the Aula:

If there is a positive test, Quest labs will notify a representative from Westchester Medical Center. This representative will reach out to you directly and will also notify the
Director of Health Services at Vassar College. Subsequently a provider from Health Services will then call you to discuss the result. Results will be available through the WMC portal or the HealtheLife app if the test was taken at the Aula.

**If the test was performed at Health Services:**
Tests taken at Health Services will not be posted to the WMC portal or the HealtheLife app. If there is a positive test, Quest labs will notify the ordering provider in Health Services via faxed results. Once received, a provider from Health Services will then call you to discuss the result. Results will be available through the Quest Patient Portal
https://myquest.questdiagnostics.com/web/home

It is possible that results may be available for your review before Health Services is notified, so if you see a positive result and have not yet been called by a provider, please contact Health Services at 845-437-5800 to discuss how to proceed. Please be aware that if you test positive while in quarantine, your isolation period of 10 days starts from the date of the positive test or the date of symptom onset.

You will need to upload all Fall 2021 Post Arrival test results (positive or negative) into your Vassar College Patient portal at vassar.medicatconnect.com. Your test results will need to be reviewed by Health Services and you will receive an e-mail from Health Services when you are cleared to leave your temporary housing assignment.

**CRC Emergency: 845-437-7333**
**CRC Non-Emergency/Administrator on Call: 845-437-5221**
**Health Services: 845-437-5800  health@vassar.edu**
**Counseling Services: 845-437-5700 counseling@vassar.edu**