FAQs for COVID Housing Assignments Spring 2022

For All Housing Situations:

**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. If you have any difficulty, you can call the CRC (845) 437-5221 and ask to speak to the Administrator on Call (AOC) for assistance. 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 CRC at 845-437-5221.

**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 COVID housing call Health Services directly at 845-437-5800. There is an emergency medical technician (EMT) on-campus from 6p-2a 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.

**Isolation**

Isolation housing is reserved for known positive cases and for persons under investigation (PUI) who may or may not have COVID symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, body aches, fatigue) but are at risk for COVID infection and are awaiting a test result.

**Q: When will I be able to leave isolation?**

A: Based on the most current CDC guidelines, individuals are eligible for a “shortened” isolation period if they are asymptomatic on **Day 5 of isolation**, with Day 0 being date of symptom onset OR the date of positive test collection (whichever came first). The following criteria **MUST** be met to be eligible for a “shortened” isolation period:

- Asymptomatic or symptoms grossly resolved
- Afebrile x 24 hours without use of a fever-reducing medication (ex. Tylenol/Motrin/Ibuprofen)
- Capable of masking when around others **including** in your housing assignment for additional 5 days (with the exception of eating and drinking)
- Negative rapid antigen test taken on Day 5
- You are not moderately-severely immunocompromised

Please note that if any of these criteria CAN NOT be met, then you must complete the standard 10-day isolation period. If you DO meet the criteria for the shortened isolation period, then you will need to mask around others for the additional 5 days after returning to campus. Being that you can not mask while eating and drinking, please be sure to distance yourself from others during this activity.
Please note that moderately-severely immunocompromised individuals will need to follow the standard 10-day isolation requirements.

Please do not leave isolation until you are cleared by Health Services. You will be contacted on Day 5 or Day 10 as appropriate by a staff member who will provide formal clearance for you to return to campus.

**Q: Do I need to isolate if I have been fully vaccinated (with or without a booster)?**
A: Even if you have been fully vaccinated (with or without a booster) against COVID, you will need to isolate for the full 10 days if you have a positive test result.

**Q: When do I get retested?**
A: At this time routine diagnostic COVID testing should not be conducted for 90 days after a positive COVID-19 test, unless you are feeling ill and testing would be at the discretion of the clinician. This does not apply to the rapid antigen test that is conducted on Day 5 of isolation to determine eligibility for “shortened” isolation guidance.

**Q: If I have not yet had my booster vaccine, when should I get this?**
A: There is not specific guidance on this, however we anticipate “natural” immunity to last about 90 days so you should get your booster dose within that 90-day window. You should also be fully recovered from your illness so that you can mount an appropriate immune response.

**Q: Can I get reinfected with COVID-19?**
A: Due to the rapidly evolving variant strains, this is a strong possibility.

**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 contact 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 starting 2 days prior to symptom onset OR positive test date if asymptomatic through the date you entered isolation. 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 educate them about subsequent COVID testing. During the contact tracing process, you will NOT be identified as the COVID-19 positive individual. We encourage you to notify your close contacts as well to expedite the process.

**Q: Will anyone be checking on me while I am in isolation housing?**
A: After you are notified about your positive test result you will receive an email from health services. This will provide you with a link to your patient portal at vassar.medicatconnect.com. Please access your portal daily and complete the health form. These forms will be reviewed by a

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Health Services staff member and we will reach out to you if indicated. Please **DO NOT** use this form if you are having any urgent or emergent concerns. In this case, please call Health Services at 845-437-5800 during regular business hours or the CRC at **845-437-7333 (emergencies)** or 845-437-5221 (non-emergencies). There is an emergency medical technician (EMT) on-campus most nights from 6p-2a to address any medical emergencies and they can be accessed by calling the CRC as well.

**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:** Individuals who need to quarantine are the following:
- Unvaccinated
- Partially vaccinated with a primary vaccine series
- Completed a vaccine series and are eligible for a booster BUT have NOT obtained the booster dose

All others **do NOT** need to quarantine but are encouraged to monitor yourself for the development of symptoms and wear a well-fitting mask when around others for 10 days after your exposure, with date of last exposure being Day 0. All close contacts should obtain a COVID test 5 days after your last exposure to the positive case. If you develop symptoms during the 10-day monitoring period, isolate yourself immediately and notify Health Services at 845-437-5800 to arrange for evaluation and testing.

**Q: When can I be off quarantine?**

**A:** Quarantine typically lasts 5 days from the date of last exposure to a positive individual with date of last exposure being Day 0. If symptoms develop, or if a quarantined individual tests positive within those 5 days, they will need to follow isolation guidance.

**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 on Day 5 after their last exposure to COVID, with the date of last exposure being Day 0. Individuals in quarantine will need to schedule testing through Health Services. Close contacts who are not in quarantine can test with Health Services or at the Aula Wednesdays/Fridays 1-5pm.

**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?**

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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.

Q: What if I get a COVID booster vaccine after I am exposed, do I still need to quarantine?
A: Yes. If you have not received a booster vaccine prior to the date of your last exposure, you will still need to quarantine.

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: After you are notified about your exposure and need quarantine housing, you will receive an email from health services. This will provide you with a link to your patient portal at vassar.medcatconnect.com. Please access your portal daily and complete the health form. These forms will be reviewed by a Health Services staff member and we will reach out to you if indicated. Please DO NOT use this form if you are having any urgent or emergent concerns. In this case, please call Health Services at 845-437-5800 during regular business hours or the CRC at 845-437-7333 (emergencies) or 845-437-5221 (non-emergencies). There is an emergency medical technician (EMT) on-campus most nights from 6p-2a to address any medical emergencies and they can be accessed by calling the CRC as well.

Temporary Housing/Hampton Inn

Temporary housing is reserved for those without a valid pre-arrival test or for unvaccinated domestic or international air travelers who are required to quarantine for 5 days after reaching their destination in 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.

Q: When can I leave temporary housing?
A: Once the appropriate COVID tests are resulted or you fulfill the 5-day quarantine (if an unvaccinated traveler) you will be cleared by Health Services to leave temporary residence. You will need to check-out at the front desk of the hotel before you leave.

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.

CRC Emergency: 845-437-7333

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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