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. This 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 GrubHub account. Instructions on how to access these services will be in the email sent to you through residential life. You will also receive an Instacart gift card and will also have the ability to order twice a week from dining services for supplemental things such as snacks and beverages. This is the form you will use to request those services:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeROv-pWb_Xz9U0arcpqk9ionXlpZij0iPod-4HI2r7CXI8w/viewform

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. You can also provide a list of your close contacts in the CoVerified app. 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. Once you identify a close contact in CoVerified, it will NOT notify your contact. 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.

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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. If you are having any symptoms or there are other medical concerns, a staff member from Health Services 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). The case manager will also be reaching out to assist you with any needs you may have while in isolation housing.

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: 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 that 10 days, they will be moved into isolation.

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. We recommend tests be taken within 24 hours of entering quarantine, 4 days into quarantine and 7-8 days into quarantine. We highly recommend that at a minimum you are tested 48-72 hours prior to leaving quarantine. These tests will need to be scheduled through Health Services NOT the Aula. 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. In certain situations more frequent testing may be recommended, 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 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. Subsequently a provider from Health Services will then call you to discuss the result. Results will also be pushed to the Coverified app after you speak to a Health Services staff member and will be available through the WMC portal or the HealtheLife app if the test was taken at the Aula. Tests taken at Health Services will not be posted to the WMC portal or the HealtheLife app.

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.
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, symptoms are completely resolved and 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.

Q: How will I get food if I am on quarantine?
A: In the beginning, students will be provided with a GrubHub account. Instructions on how to access these services will be in the e-mail sent to you through residential life. You will also receive an Instacart gift card and will also have the ability to order twice a week from dining services for supplemental things such as snacks and beverages. This is the form you will use to request those services:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeROvP_Wb_Xz9U0arcpqk9ionXlpZij0iPod-4Hl2r7CXl8w/viewform

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. Please reply to the e-mail, submit a positive symptom report in CoVerified, 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 (temp) housing is reserved for those without a valid pre-arrival test or for individuals arriving after the antigen testing site closes (4pm). Students arriving after 4pm will need to arrive at the antigen testing site the following day after 9am. Students on quarantine or isolation may also be housed at the Hampton Inn hotel if appropriate.

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 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).

**Q: How will I get food at the hotel?**
A: Each student on temporary housing is provided with a GrubHub account. Instructions on how to access these services will be in the email sent to you through residential life. 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 either submit a positive symptom report in CoVerified or call Health Services directly at 845-437-5800. 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 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. Subsequently a provider from Health Services will then call you to discuss the result. Results will also be pushed to the Coverified app after you speak to a Health Services staff member and will be available through the WMC portal or the HealtheLife app if the test was taken at the Aula. Tests taken at Health Services will not be posted to the WMC portal or the HealtheLife app.
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 temporary housing, your isolation period of 10 days starts from the date of the positive test or the date of symptom onset.

**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

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