FAQs for Special Housing Situations

Isolation (Alumnae House, Dean of Faculty, 79 Raymond)

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: In the beginning, 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 need to fill out a food request form daily to order meals for the following day. Food will be left in paper bags in a container outside of the quarantine/isolation space.

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.

Q: Will anyone be checking on me while I am in isolation housing?
A: A nurse 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 assess you in your isolation room. There is an EMT from 7p-3a to address any
medical emergencies and they will be reaching out as well either by email/phone or in-person according to your preference. The case manager will also be reaching out to assist you with any needs you may have while in isolation housing.

**Quarantine (Annex, Pratt House)**

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. Testing is most accurate between days 4-7 after exposure so this would be the recommended time frame. Unfortunately, despite negative test results, you will still need to quarantine for a total of 10 days after last exposure.

**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 and will be available through the WMC portal or the HealthLife app. 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.

**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: 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 need to
fill out a food request form daily to order meals for the following day. Food will be left in paper bags in a container outside of the quarantine/isolation space.

**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 or call Health Services if you are experiencing any symptoms or have any medical needs or concerns. Members of Vassar College EMS will also perform weekly outreach to offer peer support. There is an EMT from 7p-3a to address any medical emergencies or if a check-in is requested.

**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.

**Q: When can I leave temporary housing?**
**A:** Students arriving without a valid pre-arrival test will have an antigen AND PCR test on their date of arrival and will then proceed to the hotel where they will quarantine for 10 days. You will need to schedule a PCR test with WMC on day 8 or 9 after arrival. You will still need to fulfill the 10-day quarantine regardless of test results.

**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.

**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 and will be available through the WMC portal or the HealthLife 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.

**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**