

Parents & Family Guide to Quarantine & Isolation Housing Procedures
George Mason University
Spring 2021

As is outlined in Mason's Safe Return to Campus Plan, the University is making all efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 within the campus community and keep our students, faculty, and staff as healthy as possible. However, it is possible that a residential student may be advised by Student Health Services (SHS) that they must isolate due to a positive COVID-19 test and/or related symptoms or quarantine due to exposure to another person who has been confirmed positive. SHS in collaboration with Housing & Residence Life (HRL) has developed a thorough protocol to address these situations in a manner that provides impacted students with various options and essentials services while also keeping the larger community as safe as possible.

If a student is advised by SHS and/or HRL that they need to isolate or quarantine, they can choose the option that is most ideal for them:

- **Students can choose to complete their quarantine or isolation period at home or another off-campus location.** Students should not utilize this option if it could result in exposure to others in the household, especially higher-risk populations. During this time, students will remain under the care of SHS and cannot return to the residence halls without completing a clearance appointment.
- **Students can choose to complete their quarantine or isolation period on campus in a designated residence hall.** Students will be temporarily reassigned to a residence hall location that will provide a private bedroom and bathroom until completing their clearance appointment with Student Health Services. During this time, Mason Dining will provide complimentary meal deliveries each day and HRL will provide essential supplies (i.e. toiletries, linens, towels) and services (i.e. laundry, trash removal).
- **Beacon Hall (SciTech Campus):** All students residing in Beacon Hall on the SciTech Campus are already provided with a private bedroom and bathroom appropriate for quarantine or isolation. In most cases, Beacon Hall residents will be permitted to remain in their assigned space until they complete a clearance appointment with SHS. If temporary assignments within the building are needed, students will receive assistance from Beacon Hall HRL Staff.

Quarantine & Isolation Housing Student Guidelines & Expectations

After receiving notice from SHS and/or HRL that a student will need to isolate or quarantine, they will also receive direct communication from an HRL or University Life (UL) professional staff member. During this outreach, the staff member will discuss the options listed above and help the student with appropriate next steps. If the student decides to remain on-campus for their quarantine or isolation period, they will be provided with a detailed written communication that provides a full overview of safety guidelines and expectations, as well as guidance on how to request various services from the University.

Below you will find an overview of the important safety precautions that all students in quarantine/isolation housing must abide by until they are informed by SHS and/or HRL that they are no longer required to follow these guidelines:

Commented [LP1]: this is probably true but i didn't know that we were also doing this. SHS are notifying Beacon AD on call?

Commented [CB2R1]: Yes - Beacon residents have been using VAULT tests and are now using the on-site testing site at SciTech (assuming that also goes through Medica)? We currently have a Beacon student in isolation that came from SHS.

Commented [LP3]: this is now slightly different because of surveillance testing coming back at all hours.

Commented [CB4R3]: What if we say "SHS and/or HRL"?

- Please check your Mason student email account frequently – at minimum once per day – and be available via your personal cell phone (if applicable) so HRL, SHS, the health department, and other campus resources can stay in frequent contact with you.
- If you have chosen to leave campus and quarantine/isolate elsewhere, you may not return to campus prior to receiving approval from SHS.
- You may not have any guests in your assigned room at Angel Cabrera Global Center (ACGC) or Commonwealth Hall. Only HRL Staff and residents may be in the building at any time.
- Students should always remain inside of their assigned space unless leaving to receive in-person medical care advised by SHS or they have received approval by HRL. In these instances, students should utilize the nearest stairwell or elevator to exit the building while wearing a face covering and avoiding contact with others
- In the event of an emergency building evacuation, students must calmly leave the building while wearing a face covering and remaining socially distant from others. Students in ACGC should meet in the parking area immediately in front of the building; students in Commonwealth should gather along the pathway leading to The Commons.
- Students are instructed to contact SHS if they have any concerns regarding their isolation/quarantine period or health conditions. Students should contact 911 if they are experiencing a medical emergency.
- Students will be required to complete the Mason COVID Health Check daily and observe local health department check-in procedures. This process is the same for all residential students, so you should continue to complete your daily screener in the same manner.
- Students should continue their enrollment in their Virtual Learning Community as a way of staying engaged with other students and HRL during this time.
- Failure to abide by these rules and/or committing any acts that endanger other occupants of the building or other members of the campus community may result in immediate loss of housing privileges and eviction from the residence hall.

Daily Meals & Other Deliveries

While staying in quarantine/isolation housing, all students will receive daily meal deliveries prepared by Mason Dining at no cost. These meals will be delivered during lunch and dinner service time each day and will be placed at each student's bedroom door for contactless delivery. Shelf stable breakfast items for the following day will also be included. Students with food allergies or specific dietary needs will receive direct contact information for Mason Dining professional staff who oversee daily meal preparation.

While meal deliveries will occur seven days per week, we understand that students may wish to receive additional meals/snacks. As a safety precaution, food deliveries from off-campus vendors are not permitted to ACGC or Commonwealth Hall. Students needing additional or different food are welcome to share all requests with Mason Dining to ensure their meal deliveries provide ample nutrition.

In order to ensure the safety of HRL staff, students will not be able to receive mail or package deliveries during this time. If students need to contact GMU Mail Services to request an extend timeline for picking up mail, they can visit <https://printandmail.gmu.edu/>. If students need to receive essential personal items such as prescription medication, they should contact HRL at housing@gmu.edu to make arrangements.

Essential Personal Items

Should students run out of essential personal items and toiletries, such as soap, shampoo, toilet paper, etc., during their quarantine/isolation housing they are welcome to email housing@gmu.edu for assistance. While the availability of items is limited to select types and brands, HRL will make all efforts to accommodate student needs. Students should e-mail HRL at least 2 business days prior to when items will be needed as immediate delivery will not be possible.

Laundry & Trash Collection

Students are provided with a reusable/washable laundry bag and plastic garbage bags while in quarantine or isolation housing. If students need assistance with laundry service prior to when they are able to leave quarantine/isolation housing, they can place their clothing in the laundry bag and leave it outside of their bedroom door prior to the next brunch/lunch delivery. They will also need to email housing@gmu.edu with a completed laundry inventory form prior to placing items in the hallway. Please note that HRL is not responsible for any clothing items that become damaged during the laundering process.

Students should use the plastic garbage bags to gather all trash. As necessary, students should securely tie the bag closed and leave it outside of their bedroom door to be collected by HRL Staff.

Outdoor/Exercise Time for Students in “Quarantine”

If students are staying in ACGC and SHS have advised them that they’re under “quarantine,” students have the opportunity to select up to two (2) one-hour time blocks each day to leave the building for fresh air, outdoor exercise, etc. Students in ACGC who are classified as a “quarantine” case by SHS may participate by taking the following steps:

- Visit the “ACGC Outdoor Time” sign-up form provided in their welcome email. Students may select two (2) one-hour time blocks each day or as desired. In order to ensure their MasonCard is properly activated for their chosen times, sign-ups must be submitted no later than 8:00am on that date(s) students wish to go outside.
- In order to support social distancing and mitigate additional risk for those staying and working in the ACGC community, there will be a strict limit on the number of spots available each hour.
- Students are not permitted to enter any other campus building and they must remain on campus during this time.
- Students must wear a mask at all times and maintain a minimum of 6-foot distance from other individuals.
- Students who are found to be going/remaining outside longer than their approved time blocks will be subject to a Student Conduct referral and may immediately lose their ability to remain on campus.

Students staying in Commonwealth Hall and/or those students classified as an “isolation” case by SHS are not permitted to utilize this option.

Housing & Residence Life

Students are welcome to contact either of our Housing & Residence Life 24/7 Desks by calling the following numbers:

- Eisenhower Desk: 703-993-2750
- Piedmont/Tidewater Desk: 703-993-9880

Students are also encouraged to contact us via email at housing@gmu.edu. Please note that the HRL Main Office email is monitored during Monday-Friday business hours only. For more immediate concerns for Housing & Residence Life, students should call one of our HRL Desks.

Student Health Services

Student Health Services will make all official decisions on residential students' need to utilize quarantine/isolation housing based on COVID-19 test results, exposure to another person who has tested positive, or other factors. SHS staff will also determine when it is safe and appropriate for a student to leave quarantine/isolation housing and no longer abide by the requirements listed above.

Students who have any questions related to their personal health, medical diagnosis, or other concerns should contact SHS at 703-993-2831. SHS nurses and physicians are available by phone during normal business hours. After-hours, students will be able to speak with a nurse on-call by using the same main office phone number.

GMU Police & Emergency Services

GMU Police are available 24/7 to assist with any immediate concerns for the health and well-being of students. GMU Police can be contacted at their non-emergency line at 703-993-2810. If students need emergency assistance, please call 911 immediately.

Student Support & Advocacy Center

If students are in quarantine or isolation (either on- or off-campus) and need help navigating available support resources (including well-being, mental health, or academic support), they can complete this self-referral [form](#) and a staff member from Student Support and Advocacy Center will contact them to discuss further.