

Monday, Sept. 14, 2020

Campus Community,

Below are responses to the frequently asked questions the Young Harris College Pandemic Recovery Team has received. If you still have questions after reviewing these responses, please use the email address COVID-19info@yhc.edu or the dedicated phone number **(706) 379-5383**. We ask for patience as we navigate the complex impacts that this situation is having on YHC's operations. We are making informed, real-time decisions and keeping the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff top of mind.

Responses to Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated: Sept. 14, 2020

YHC will continue to update these as needed

How many YHC students and employees have COVID-19, are in isolation or are in quarantine?

YHC is tracking COVID-19 numbers among the campus community daily and reports the number of people in isolation and quarantine to students, faculty and staff members once a week on YHC Connect. This information is available to those with a yhc.edu email address.

Did YHC close and send all students home?

No. The College has shifted classroom instruction to online delivery until Sept. 21 at the earliest. Our students, faculty and staff members are still on campus.

What's the difference between isolation and quarantine?

Isolation and quarantine help protect the public by preventing exposure to people who have or may have a contagious disease. Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick. Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. For more information, [please see the website for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

Why did classes move to online delivery?

The decision to move to online instruction was made to provide one platform on which faculty members will be teaching. With many students in isolation or quarantine, the demand on instructors to manage some fully face-to-face sections, some sections divided into subsections, and some sections with multiple students who cannot participate in person was becoming too great. Our temporary shift to online delivery allows instructors to have one modality and not have to teach in multiple formats simultaneously.

Are facilities like on-campus dining, the library and laundry rooms still open?

Yes. The Grace Rollins Dining Hall, Chick-fil-A Express and Starbucks are still open to YHC students and employees. The library and laundry facilities are also open.

Why are dining facilities still open while classrooms are not?

YHC's contact tracing indicates that COVID-19 transmission is not taking place in the classrooms or on-campus dining facilities, but is limited to a small number of residence hall rooms/suites where students are gathering indoors without face coverings. Although transmission is not taking place in classrooms, YHC temporarily shifted to online delivery to allow instructors to teach all students the same way rather than having to shift between in-person and accommodating those out for isolation or quarantine.

In addition, there are a couple of key features of Grace Rollins Dining Hall that sometimes get overlooked. With its high ceiling, the dining hall has a significant volume of air in which any potential infectious agents can disperse. This, combined with the constant motion of people in and out that keeps the air moving, the limits on large groups eating together, and the frequent sanitation procedures carried out by Sodexo staff, is intended to reduce the potential for transmission. Individuals who are not comfortable eating in the dining hall are welcome to get their meals to go and eat in the RCC lounge, on one of the RCC's decks, on the lawn or in a location where they feel comfortable.

Why are some in-person events still scheduled to take place on campus?

YHC is still permitting student events to take place when all health and safety guidelines are being followed. For instance, all individuals in attendance must wear face coverings and keep socially distant. On-campus events provide outlets for students to socialize where their adherence to these important safety protocols can be monitored by staff. Without such events, some students would look to socialize anyway, working around or directly defying the protocols, which would lead to worse outcomes. If you observe any student events or programs in which the safety protocols are not being followed, please notify Dr. Laura Whitaker-Lea.

What precautions are being taken when planning student events?

Many student events have been moved to an outdoor location to allow more space for social distancing and provide fresh air and ventilation. YHC is also requiring students to wear face coverings.

Can YHC students, faculty and staff members be outside on campus?

Yes. All members of the campus community are not only welcome to but encouraged to go outside, provided they maintain six feet of distance between themselves and others. In fact, droplets and aerosols disperse more rapidly when the air volume is greater. Breathing fresh air may be one of the best means of limiting viral transmission.

Do face coverings need to be worn when attending an event/activity outdoors?

When outdoors on campus, all students, employees and contract workers are required to maintain six feet between themselves and others whenever possible. When six feet is not possible, individuals must wear their cloth face coverings.

How is equipment cleaned during an event where it may touch multiple different hands?

At any event in which students are using equipment, cleaning wipes and hand sanitizer will be provided. Students should wipe the equipment before and after use and use hand sanitizer to clean their hands. This is similar to what students must do at the Recreation and Fitness Center and are encouraged to do with their desks in classrooms.

Will I receive a refund for tuition, housing or meals while YHC is providing online delivery?

The College acknowledges that the quality of the educational experience online is less than what can be provided face to face, which is what YHC is set up to do. However, online delivery is even more expensive for YHC than in-person delivery, due to the additional costs of support systems while we continue to pay instructors and support personnel who have even more work to do in adapting to a new modality and new student needs. For this reason, YHC is not providing tuition reimbursements, and the College will return to in-person instruction as soon as it is feasible to do so.

Although the College temporarily shifted to online delivery, on-campus housing and meal plans remain available to students who have registered and paid for them. If a student is required to isolate or quarantine, he/she may be relocated to another residence hall where meals will be delivered, but no refund will be issued. More details on the College's refund policies can be found in the [YHC Catalog](#), the [2020-2021 Guide to Student Life](#) and the [2020-2021 YHC Housing Agreement](#).

Are students required to stay on campus while classes are being delivered online?

There is no requirement for students to stay on campus while classes are being delivered online. However, any student who decides to leave campus while classes are online must inform the appropriate Resident Assistant (RA) and Residence Life Coordinator (RLC).

Who is enforcing YHC's health and safety protocols? What will happen to those who violate the guidelines?

College administrators, faculty and staff members, including the YHC Police Department, are enforcing the guidelines designed to keep all members of our campus community healthy and safe. Violations by students should be reported to Dr. Laura Whitaker-Lea. Violations by faculty members should be reported to Dr. Jason Pierce. Violations by staff members should be reported to Mr. Bo Wright. Violations of the Student Code of Conduct or the COVID-19 addendum (both found in the [2020-2021 Guide to Student Life](#)) or other requirements announced on [YHC's COVID-19 Resource Page](#) are taken very seriously, and violators will be disciplined. Potential consequences include suspension.

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