

**Young Harris College**  
**Student Quarantine & Isolation Protocols, Spring 2021**  
*revised 12/9/2020, approved by President Van Horn 12/10/2020*

For the spring 2021 semester, Young Harris College has implemented the following protocols based on updated guidance published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for students who have tested positive for COVID-19, are presumed to be positive with COVID-19, or who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19. As this situation is fluid and developments are occurring daily, the College reserves the right to change its protocols for students at any point. Nothing in this document is intended to form a guarantee or a legal contract between any student or parent and the College.

The College's response to the COVID-19 crisis is managed by the Pandemic Recovery Task Force, which consists of the following members:

- Wade Benson, Chief Financial Officer
- Jason A. Pierce, Provost
- Jennifer Rushton, Director of Athletics
- Laura Whitaker-Lea, Vice President for Student Development
- Bo Wright, Chief Operations Officer (and Chair of the Task Force)

Any student who has symptoms associated with COVID-19, has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or has had close contact with an individual who is believed or confirmed to have COVID-19 must report this by sending an email to [ReportCOVID@yhc.edu](mailto:ReportCOVID@yhc.edu).

### **Key Terms**

- **Close contact** is constituted by one or more of the following: having been within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes while not wearing an appropriate face covering; having provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19; having had direct physical contact (touching, hugging, kissing) with a person with COVID-19; sharing eating or drinking utensils with a person with COVID-19; having been sneezed on, coughed on or otherwise directly exposed to the respiratory droplets of someone with COVID-19.
- **Isolation** is the separation from the rest of the community of an individual who is presumed to be positive with COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19, regardless of whether the individual is symptomatic.
- **Quarantine** is the separation from the rest of the community of an individual who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

### **Student Health Screenings**

The College will conduct health screenings of students during the first weeks of the semester. The College may require students to undergo additional health screenings later in the semester as necessary for the health and wellbeing of College community members.

A student who is found during a screening to have one or more symptoms of COVID-19 will be referred to a healthcare provider (either the student's physician or the Young Harris Clinic of Union General Hospital) and will not be permitted to attend classes or participate in co-/extra-curricular activities until that student has been cleared to return by a member of the Task Force in accordance with the Quarantine and Isolation Protocols outlined below.

### **Daily Self-Wellness Check**

Prior to leaving their residence or residence hall each day, students are required to perform a daily self-wellness check in accordance with [CDC symptom guidelines](#). Current symptoms include the following:

- Fever (100.4°F/38°C or more) or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

A student who has any of the above symptoms that are not attributed to another health condition or activity must immediately report the symptoms by sending a detailed email to [ReportCOVID@yhc.edu](mailto:ReportCOVID@yhc.edu). The Task Force member on call will assess the student's symptoms to determine next steps. Any student who is told to isolate or quarantine will not be permitted to attend classes or participate in co-/extra-curricular activities until cleared to do so by a member of the Task Force.

#### **Quarantine Protocol** (for COVID-19 exposure)

Any student who has been in close contact with an individual who is presumed or confirmed to have COVID-19 must enter the Quarantine Protocol.

1. The student must **send an email to [ReportCOVID@yhc.edu](mailto:ReportCOVID@yhc.edu)** to report the close contact and the need to begin the Quarantine Protocol. The member of the Task Force on call will work with the Office of Academic Affairs to inform the student's academic advisor, the student's instructors, and other staff and faculty members as appropriate.
2. The student must **return home and separate from others** in a designated "sick room" or segregated area, preferably with access to a separate bathroom if possible. The student will continue to monitor his/her/their health and alert the Task Force to any symptom development by sending an email to [ReportCOVID@yhc.edu](mailto:ReportCOVID@yhc.edu).
3. The student must **remain in quarantine for 10 days** from the date of close contact. This period may be shortened to as few as 7 days if the student tests negative for COVID-19 using a molecular test administered at least 5 days after close contact. (*Note: A negative result from an antigen test, also called a "rapid" test, will not shorten the quarantine period.*) If at any time during this period the student develops symptoms of or tests positive for COVID-19, the student will be transitioned to the Isolation Protocol (see below).
4. The student must **wait for clearance from a member of the Task Force** before returning to classes or participating in co-/extra-curricular activities. On the day prior to the anticipated end of the student's quarantine, a member of the Task Force will contact the student to conduct a screening. If the student meets the screening criteria, he/she/they will be cleared to return to normal campus activities.

Any student who has close contact with an individual who is presumed or confirmed to have COVID-19 and does not follow the steps in this protocol will be subject to sanctions for violating the Student Code of Conduct, Standards 2 (endangering the health of others) and 17 (failing to comply with a College employee).

### **Isolation Protocol** (for presumed or confirmed COVID-19 cases)

Any student who is presumed or confirmed to have COVID-19 must begin the Isolation Protocol.

1. The student must **send an email to [ReportCOVID@yhc.edu](mailto:ReportCOVID@yhc.edu)** to report symptoms or a positive test result. The member of the Task Force on call will work with the Office of Academic Affairs to inform the student's academic advisor, the student's instructors, and other staff and faculty members as appropriate.
2. The student must **return home and separate from others** in a designated "sick room" or segregated area, preferably with access to a separate bathroom if possible. The student will continue to monitor his/her/their health and alert the Task Force to any significant development by sending an email to [ReportCOVID@yhc.edu](mailto:ReportCOVID@yhc.edu).
3. The student must **remain in isolation for at least 10 days** from the date of symptom onset (for symptomatic individuals) or from the administration date of the positive test (for asymptomatic individuals). This period may be shortened if the student has no symptoms and receives two negative test results in a row from tests conducted at least 24 hours apart. Alternatively, this period may be lengthened if the student continues to have symptoms or on the advice of an appropriately licensed healthcare provider.
4. The student must **wait for clearance from a member of the Task Force** before returning to classes or participating in co-/extra-curricular activities. On the day prior to the anticipated end of the student's isolation, a member of the Task Force will contact the student to conduct a screening. If the student meets the screening criteria, he/she/they will be cleared to return to normal campus activities.

Any student who has close contact with an individual who is presumed or confirmed to have COVID-19 and does not follow the steps in this protocol will be subject to sanctions for violating the Student Code of Conduct, Standards 2 (endangering the health of others) and 17 (failing to comply with a College employee).

### **Quarantine/Isolation for Students Who Cannot Return Home**

In most situations in which a student is required to go into quarantine or isolation, the best option will be for the student to return home. For some residential students, however, this may not be feasible (e.g., international students, students with high-risk family members at home, students who lack adequate network connectivity at home). If a residential student cannot return home, the student may be permitted to stay on campus for the quarantine or isolation period, but only with the explicit permission of a Task Force member. If the student's assigned space does not require the relocation of any other residential student, the student may be permitted to stay in that space. If that space is not available, the student will be temporarily reassigned to a designated on-campus quarantine or isolation housing space. Any decision about whether a student will be permitted to quarantine or isolate on campus, and whether this will take place in the student's assigned housing space or a designated quarantine or isolation housing space, will be made by a member of the Task Force.

College employees will provide regular no-contact food delivery to any student required to quarantine or isolate on campus.

### **Academic Support During Quarantine or Isolation**

A student in quarantine or isolation is expected to communicate with his/her/their instructors as soon as possible to arrange reasonable temporary accommodations. This may include, but is not limited to, lecture capture videos, alternate assignments, a designated peer note-taker, videoconference meetings, revised due dates and the like. The student's academic advisor will

assist the student with temporary accommodations, in coordination with Executive Director of Student Persistence & Success Dr. Theresa Spanella.

A student who is required to follow the Quarantine Protocol or the Isolation Protocol will be excused from all class meetings while in either protocol. Absences resulting from either protocol will not be counted against the student in grade calculations. An official message indicating that the student is in quarantine or isolation will be sent to the student's instructors by the Office of Academic Affairs.

Only students who have communicated with the Task Force via the [ReportCOVID@yhc.edu](mailto:ReportCOVID@yhc.edu) email address will be eligible to be excused from classes while in isolation or quarantine. Any student who misrepresents his/her/their status as being in quarantine or isolation will be subject to sanctions for violating the Student Code of Conduct, Standard 1 (dishonesty), and the Honor Code, Article 3j (lying), in addition to any penalties to assignment or course grades as determined by the instructor.