

Young Harris College — Student Quarantine & Isolation Protocols, Fall 2020
Approved by Pandemic Recovery Task Force and President Van Horn 8/6/2020
revised 8/13/2020

During the fall 2020 semester, Young Harris College has implemented the following protocols, based on current guidance published by the Centers for Disease Control and Preventing (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 dedicated COVID-19 coordinator for students is

Dr. Laura Whitaker-Lea, Vice President for Student Development
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Dr. Whitaker-Lea is responsible for managing the College's response to any suspected or confirmed cases within the student body. Dr. Whitaker-Lea coordinates with Mr. Bo Wright, Chief Operations Officer and Chair of the Pandemic Recovery Task Force, who works with health officials as needed to address individual illnesses or larger outbreaks, and to confirm that any positive or suspected diagnosis is properly communicated to the Towns County Health Department and to the student's home public health agency.

Key Terms

- *Close contact* — According to the CDC, “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; 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; have been sneezed on, coughed on, or otherwise directly exposed to the respiratory droplets of someone with COVID-19.
- *Isolation* — “Isolation” is the separation from the rest of the community of an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is presumed to be positive with COVID-19, regardless of whether the individual is symptomatic.
- *Quarantine* — “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 all students prior to the beginning of classes. The College may require students to undergo additional health screenings later in the semester as necessary for the health and safety of the College community.

A student who is found during a screening to have one or more symptoms of COVID-19 will be referred to the Young Harris Clinic of Union General Hospital (or to another health care provider) and will not be permitted to return to classes or participate in co-/extra-curricular activities until that student has been cleared to return by Dr. Whitaker-Lea 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 updated [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

Students who have any of the above symptoms that are not attributed to another health condition or activity must immediately report the symptoms to Dr. Whitaker-Lea and go to Young Harris Clinic of Union General Hospital (or another health care provider) for assessment. Students will not be permitted to return to classes or participate in co-/extra-curricular activities until cleared to return by Dr. Whitaker-Lea in accordance with the Quarantine and Isolation Protocols outlined below.

Quarantine Protocol (for COVID-19 exposure)

Any student who has been in close contact with an individual with COVID-19 must begin the Quarantine Protocol.

1. The student must inform Dr. Whitaker-Lea of the close contact and the need to begin the Quarantine Protocol. Dr. Whitaker-Lea 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 if possible and separate him/herself from others in a designated "sick room" or area, preferably with access to a separate bathroom (if available), and monitor his/her health. (See below for student who cannot return home.)
3. The student must remain in quarantine for 14 days after his/her last close contact with the individual who has COVID-19.
4. The student must communicate with Dr. Whitaker-Lea on the development and progress of COVID-19 symptoms, any COVID-19 test results, and any health care provider's recommendations relating to returning to classes and co-/extra-curricular activities. The student must be cleared by Dr. Whitaker-Lea prior to returning.
5. If at any time during the quarantine period the student tests positive for COVID-19 or develops symptoms of COVID-19, the student will immediately transition to the Isolation Protocol.
6. If the student completes the 14-day quarantine period without testing positive for COVID-19 or developing symptoms of COVID-19 that are not attributed to another health condition or activity, Dr. Whitaker-Lea will clear the student to resume classes and all co-/extra-curricular activities.

Isolation Protocol (for diagnosed or presumptive COVID-19 cases)

Any student who has tested positive for COVID-19 or who has developed symptoms of COVID-19 must begin the Isolation Protocol.

1. The student will inform Dr. Laura Whitaker-Lea of the test result or the symptoms and the need to begin the Isolation Protocol. Dr. Whitaker-Lea 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 will return home, if possible, and separate him/herself from others in a designated "sick room" or area, preferably with access to a separate bathroom (if available), and monitor his/her health. (See below for student who cannot return home.)
3. The length of the student's stay in isolation will be determined by whether or not the student has symptoms of COVID-19 and whether the symptoms are attributed to another health condition.
 - a. *Students with symptoms attributed to another health condition* — A student who develops a singular or mild symptom on the list of COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., mild headache, congestion in one who suffers from seasonal allergies, fatigue after strenuous exercise) that quickly resolves without medication and who is not suspected of having COVID-19 by a healthcare provider may return upon clearance from Dr. Whitaker-Lea. In the event of a symptom or symptoms that continue for more than 24 hours, Dr. Whitaker-Lea may require a note from the student's healthcare provider that COVID-19 is not suspected or has been ruled out in order for the student to be cleared to return.
 - b. *Students with symptoms attributed to COVID-19* — A student who has symptoms attributed to COVID-19 must remain in isolation until at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms, at least 24 hours after then of any fever (without fever-reducing medication, such as aspirin, acetaminophen, or ibuprofen), and the student's symptoms have improved. The isolation period may be extended upon the advice of an appropriately licensed healthcare professional.
 - c. *Students without symptoms but testing positive* — A student who is asymptomatic but has tested positive for COVID-19 must remain in isolation until at least 10 days after the student's positive test.
4. In accordance with CDC guidelines, a negative test is not required to return to classes and to co-/extra-curricular activities. However, a student may be released from isolation and allowed to return prior to the periods outlined above if the student does not have a fever, has no respiratory symptoms or has experienced an improvement in earlier respiratory symptoms, and has received two negative test results in a row from tests conducted at least 24 hours apart.

Clearance to Return to Classes and Co-/Extra-curricular Activities

Students who have been placed in quarantine or isolation are not permitted to return to classes or co-/extra-curricular activities until cleared to do so by Dr. Whitaker-Lea. This clearance will be based on the above protocols, the student's reporting of symptoms and/or test results, and any information reported from public health officials and/or the student's healthcare provider. Neither the College nor any employee of the College is responsible for conducting an actual health evaluation on the student.

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, lack of adequate network connectivity at home). If a residential student cannot return home, the student may be permitted to stay in his or her assigned housing space, provided the student can maintain quarantine (for at least 14 days) or isolation (until all criteria are satisfied). If a student needs to stay on campus but cannot stay in his or her assigned housing space, the student may

be temporarily reassigned to a designated on-campus quarantine/isolation housing space. Any decision about whether a student will be allowed to quarantine or isolate on campus, and whether this will take place in the student's assigned housing space or a designated quarantine/isolation housing space, will be made by Dr. Laura Whitaker-Lea.

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

Academic Support During Quarantine/Isolation

A student in quarantine or isolation is expected to communicate with his/her instructors as soon as possible to arrange reasonable temporary accommodations. This may include, but is not limited to, lecture capture videos, alternative 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 Dr. Theresa Spanella, Executive Director of Student Persistence & Success.

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.