

COVID-19 STUDENT POLICY
FOR EXPOSURE AND CONFIRMED OR SUSPECT INFECTION

I. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this policy to define the Paul Smith's College (the "College") student policy when there is exposure to COVID-19 infection, confirmed or suspect COVID-19 infection, compliance with New York State Department of Health ("NYSDOH") and Franklin County Department of Health ("FCDH") regulations for such circumstances, and repercussions in the event of non-compliance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the College for students to follow isolation and quarantine protocols in accordance with the NYSDOH and FCDH regulations in the event of exposure to and/or confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection. Students who fail to comply with this policy or the NYSDOH /FCDH procedures for masking, physical distancing, testing, isolation or quarantine will be considered in violation of the student code of conduct and will be subject to judicial sanction up to and including suspension from the college. Paul Smith's Health Services office is authorized to approve deviations from this policy as appropriate for the health and safety of the College community.

III. DEFINITIONS

1. Isolation: A restriction required to prevent spread of infection from persons with confirmed or suspect COVID-19 infection. The procedures for isolation are detailed at Franklin County Department of Health website: [Welcome to Franklin County, NY \(franklincountyny.gov\)](http://www.franklincountyny.gov)
2. Quarantine: A restriction required for unvaccinated persons who may be incubating COVID-19 infection due to contact /exposure to infection. Quarantine is for 10 days, beginning from the date of last exposure to the person with COVID-19 infection (date of last exposure = day zero), and continues for 10 consecutive days. Individuals on quarantine must conduct symptom monitoring for a full 14 days. The procedures for quarantine are at the Franklin County Department of Health website: [Welcome to Franklin County, NY \(franklincountyny.gov\)](http://www.franklincountyny.gov)
3. Close Contact/ Exposure: Close contact to COVID-19 infection in a community setting for the purposes of quarantine restriction is defined as sharing the same household, direct physical contact, direct contact with infectious secretions, or being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 infection for 10 minutes. See FDOH definition:
 - You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 10 minutes or more, with or without a face covering on.

- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

4. Excused Absences: Isolation or quarantine will result in potential absences from academic activity. Such absences will be considered excused absences provided the student is compliant with the procedures of this policy.

5. Fully COVID-19 Vaccinated: Receipt of a complete series (if more than one dose is indicated for the vaccine) of a vaccine approved by FDA for either use or by Emergency Use Authorization, and at least two weeks have passed since the second dose in a two-dose series, or at least two weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine.

6. COVID-19 Recovered: History of laboratory confirmed COVID-19 infection within the past 90 days.

IV. BACKGROUND

A. Symptoms of COVID-19 infection may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The median incubation period from exposure to onset of symptoms is 5-6 days.

B. The symptoms of COVID-19 infection are: Fever 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. Seek Medical Attention Immediately for trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, bluish lips or face.

C. COVID-19 infection, whether confirmed or suspect, requires Isolation. For confirmed cases, the duration of Isolation is defined by the NYSDOH. The NYSDOH follows a symptom-based strategy for the discontinuation of isolation. For asymptomatic persons, duration is dependent upon time from the date a diagnostic test was performed. The date of onset of symptoms or, for asymptomatic persons, the date of the positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, is day zero and isolation then proceeds for 10 consecutive days.

D. Persons with COVID-19 infection are considered “infectious” for 48 hours before symptom onset, and thus may expose others to infection during this 48-hour period.

E. COVID-19 close contact/exposure requires quarantine if the exposed person has not been fully vaccinated or has not recovered from COVID-19 within the past 90 days. Quarantine begins at the time of last exposure to the infected person, which is counted as day zero of quarantine, and continues for 10 consecutive days. Cases requiring quarantine also must test at day 5 post exposure.

F. All cases of confirmed COVID-19 infection, determined by a positive diagnostic test, are to be interviewed by the local Department of Health where the person lives. During this case

investigation the Department of Health elicits the names and contact information for close contacts who will require quarantine.

V. PROCEDURES

A. Verifying status as close contact /exposed to COVID-19.

1. If the student has been confirmed as a close contact by a Paul Smith’s College official (Health Services or college employed contact tracer), follow the procedures according to your vaccinated status:

Vaccination Status	Post-Exposure Requirements
Fully Vaccinated or COVID-19 Recovered Within 90 Days	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Symptom monitoring for 14 days using symptom monitoring chart issued by Health Services 2. Wear a face mask indoors for 14 days; recommended to wear face mask outdoors near other people for 14 days 3. PCR Test Day 5 post-exposure
Non-Fully Vaccinated or Not COVID-19 Recovered in the past 90 days	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Symptom monitor for 14 days 2. Quarantine for 10 days 3. PCR Test Day 5 post-exposure

2. If the student’s close contact/exposure to COVID-19 has **not** been confirmed by a campus official, follow the procedures below:

A) During regular business hours (M-F 8am to 4pm) contact Health Services (518.327.6319). *Students must inform the College’s Health Services of any exposure to someone positive for COVID-19.*

B) On evenings and weekends contact Campus Safety (518.327.6300) who will put the student in contact with an on-call campus employed contact tracer to evaluate.

C) Once close contact status is verified, follow the above chart which clarifies requirements based on vaccination status.

**It is important to note that a student may be notified directly by the positive contact, the NYSDOH, or a county DOH if they have been exposed to a person with COVID-19. If a student is electing to use an exposure app on their phone, all possible exposures will need to be verified by a campus official before placement into quarantine.*

B. Procedures for Quarantine:

1. Quarantine Generally: Quarantine is for 10 days but all persons must self-monitor temperature and symptoms daily 14 days post-exposure. The symptom monitoring log will be provided by Health Services and must be returned electronically to Health Services at the end of day 10 for those students requiring quarantine and testing. In addition, a negative COVID-19 molecular diagnostic test not sooner than 5 days after the last exposure will be required to exit quarantine after day 10.

2. The procedures for quarantine are at the Franklin County Department of Health website: https://www.franklincountyny.gov/residents/covid-19_guidance/index.php

3. To exit quarantine the student must meet all of the following requirements

a) Obtain a negative COVID-19 molecular diagnostic test not sooner than 5 days after the last exposure to the person with COVID-19 infection because 5-6 days is the median incubation period. The COVID-19 diagnostic test must be a COVID-19 PCR molecular test; and

b) Be asymptomatic for the full 10 days of required quarantine or exposure monitoring and email a scanned PDF copy or photograph of the symptom monitoring log and no further correspondence is needed. Students are to continue to monitor symptoms on days 11-14 post exposure but the log is necessary only through the end of day 10; and

c) Health Services will review the submissions and issue a Clearance from Quarantine Monitoring email to the student. Franklin County may send an official Release from Quarantine document directly to the student.

4. If at any point during the 14-day period (10-day quarantine plus days 11-14 post-exposure symptom monitoring) a student develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection, the student must immediately isolate and notify Health Services. If symptoms arise outside of normal business (M-F 8am to 4pm) hours the student should first contact Campus Safety or in the event of a true life-threatening emergency please call 911.

5. Close contacts of cases of COVID-19 infection may be contacted by NYSDOH contact tracers who will also request results of temperature and symptom monitoring.

C. Procedures for students with confirmed COVID-19 infection:

1. If you receive a positive COVID-19 diagnostic test result, immediately notify your physician and Health Services. Contact Health Services at 518.327.6319 or healthservices@paulsmiths.edu. After hours or on weekends, please call Campus Safety at 518.327.6300.

2. If you receive a positive diagnostic test result, you must self-isolate. Isolation procedures are explained at the Franklin County Department of Health website:

[Welcome to Franklin County, NY \(franklincountyny.gov\)](http://www.franklincountyny.gov)

3. If not tested via Paul Smith's, students should submit a copy of the COVID-19 diagnostic test result to Health Services via email at healthservices@paulsmiths.edu.

4. Health Services will issue a Starting Isolation letter to the student and will notify the Center for Academic and Career Success. Each student will be appointed an Academic Advocate who will be in touch on the next business day following the start of isolation.

5. The isolation letter includes a symptom monitoring log.

6. Students in isolation will be excused from in-person academic activity during the isolation period. The Academic Advocate will assist the student in securing appropriate accommodations for missed work.

7. Seek Medical Attention Immediately for trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, bluish lips or face or any worsening symptoms.

8. The student will be contacted by the local Department of Health where the student lives to discuss isolation and for contact tracing.

9. Students with a confirmed infection should begin a list of contacts to prepare for the Department of Health interview and inform Health Services of any contacts at the College.

A form for contact listing is here:

https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/05/13114_covid19_contact_listing_051420_0.pdf

11. On campus or off-campus roommates of students with confirmed COVID-19 infection must begin symptom monitoring and begin quarantine procedures if subject to quarantine post exposure as outlined above. These exposed students follow Procedure A above (Procedures for Students with Close Contact /Exposed to COVID-19).

12. The duration of isolation for a student with infection is determined by NYSDOH protocol. To be eligible to return to academic activities, the student must:

- a) have maintained isolation for at least 10 days after illness onset; and
- b) be fever-free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications; and

c) have other symptoms improving.

If a student is asymptomatic, isolation must be maintained for at least 10 days from the date of the positive test.

13. Health Services will stay in contact with a student during the isolation period and will assist the student to know when the student may discontinue isolation. This is done in collaboration with the local Department of Health follow-up.

14. At the time isolation is complete, Health Services will issue a letter to the student and to their Academic Advocate indicating isolation is complete. The student may also request a letter from the local Department of Health.

D. Procedures for students with suspect COVID-19 infection:

1. If you develop symptoms of COVID-19 infection immediately notify your physician and Health Services. Contact Health Services at 518.327.6319 or healthservices@paulsmiths.edu.

2. If you develop symptoms, you must self-isolate. Isolation procedures are explained at: Franklin County Department of Health website: [Welcome to Franklin County, NY \(franklincountyny.gov\)](http://www.welcome-to-franklin-county-ny.gov)

3. A negative COVID-19 molecular diagnostic test (PCR test) will be required before a student with suspected COVID-19 infection can be released from isolation.

4. Health Services will notify their Academic Advocate.

5. Students in isolation will be excused from in-person academic activity during the isolation period. The Academic Advocate will assist the student in securing appropriate accommodation for missed work.

6. The duration of isolation for students awaiting or unable to obtain a diagnostic test will be in accordance with NYSDOH protocol. To be eligible to return to academic activities, a symptomatic student must:

a) have maintained isolation for at least 10 days after illness onset,

b) be fever-free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications, and

c) have other symptoms improving.

7. If the COVID-19 diagnostic test is not arranged by the College, students must submit a copy of the test result to Health Services via email at healthservices@paulsmiths.edu.

8. Health Services will review the test and inform the student and their Academic Advocate when isolation is no longer required.

VI. REFERENCE WEBSITES

- New York State Department of Health
- Franklin County Department of Health

VII. EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy is effective immediately.