

COVID-19 SPECIAL RULES, GUIDELINES AND SUPPORT APPLICABLE TO UNIVERSITY RESIDENCES

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

Purpose: The University is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for its community members. As part of this commitment and in response to COVID-19, the purpose of this document is to ensure that existing University and government directives are applied to, and understood in the context of, student residence environments. This document aligns with public health directives and guidelines but is subject to change as public health guidance and understanding about COVID-19 evolve. These rules will apply until further notice.

This document does not replace any published community standards specific to a particular University residence; however, if there is a conflict between the terms of this document and any existing published community standards, the terms of this document will prevail, particularly with respect to guests/visitors, use of common spaces and facility access. This document is not intended to conflict with or replace the University's Code of Student Conduct: <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-student-conduct-december-13-2019> or the Policy On Non-Medical Masks or Face Coverings. This document is subject to the duty to accommodate persons in accordance with the Human Rights Code of Ontario.

RULES APPLICABLE TO RESIDENCES

1. FACE COVERING

Rule: *In compliance with the University's Policy on Non-Medical Masks or Face Coverings, student residents MUST wear a mask or a face covering in residence while outside of their bedroom in common-use indoor spaces. This includes but is not limited to hallways, elevators, shared space within suites, kitchens, laundry rooms, common rooms, lobbies, foyers, entrance and exit areas. See note below for exemptions and exceptions.*

Note: In a residential setting, there are some common-sense **exceptions** to this general rule, for example, eating, drinking and using common washroom facilities to shower, brush teeth or face wash. There are also **exemptions** to this rule, for example, if a resident has a medical condition that makes it difficult to breathe while wearing a mask or face-covering. Please read [the University's Policy on Non-Medical Masks or Face Coverings](#) for more detail. Please read the [Joint Provostial and Human Resources Guideline on Non-Medical Masks](#) for more information about exemptions to this rule.

2. VISITORS/GUESTS

Rule: *Residents will not be permitted to have visitors/guests attend the residence.*

Note: In line with public health directives, this rule includes visitors/guests from other residence buildings, off-campus friends and family member or study partners. A one-time exception will be made, however, on each resident student's move-in day, when up to 2 visitors per student, wearing masks, may accompany the resident student. These visitors are required to go directly to the resident student's room, and may be in residence only during an allocated move-in window.

Within Buildings: A resident of a specific building is permitted to enter the room of another student who also lives within the same residence (only one guest is allowed per resident). All students, including the room owner, must wear a facemask. If a guest needs to use the washroom facilities, they must either return to their own assigned washroom or use their resident host's assigned washroom.

*Upper and Lower Burwash are considered two separate residences.

** In Rowell Jackman Hall, guests are only permitted to go directly to their resident host's room, the suite common space is considered a guest free area.

3. PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Rule: Residents must practice physical distancing in residence by maintaining a minimum of 2 metres between themselves and others.

Note: Physical distancing should be followed wherever possible, even in spaces where there is no posted signage.

4. COMMON SPACE

Rule: *Use of common spaces in a residence must adhere to all posted signage and all implemented safety measures.*

Note: Common spaces in the residences (and throughout Victoria University) will either be closed or will be open but with a number of restrictions and safety measures in place, such as strict physical distancing of 2 metres and maximum occupancy requirements. Student residents must follow all directives around use of common spaces. For example, if a resident enters a space that is at maximum capacity, that resident should not remain in the space. If common spaces are open, a system will be in place to ensure equal access to those common spaces. Residents are not allowed to eat or drink in common areas and masks must be worn while food is being prepared in floor/house kitchens.

5. SIGNAGE

Rule: *Residents must follow all posted signage and floor markings.*

Note: There will be health and safety posted signage throughout the residence. Some examples include signage respecting elevator occupancy limits, space closures, requirements to wear face coverings or masks, physical distancing and instructions to yield and follow directional markings.

6. REPORTING ILLNESS

Rule: If a student is feeling ill or experiences any symptoms of illness, they should remain in their bedroom and immediately notify Victoria University Residence Staff by calling 416-508-8313. In the case of emergency, they should call 9-1-1 immediately.

Note: In addition to notifying residence staff, students may also contact Toronto Public Health or Telehealth Ontario as listed below for assistance.

7. SELF-ISOLATING

Rule: *In accordance with all government requirements, all members of the community must self-isolate if they:*

- *have COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19; OR*
- *may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or someone with symptoms of COVID-19; OR*
- *have returned from anywhere outside of Canada within the past 14 days.*

Students shall inform Victoria University Residence Staff by calling [416-508-8313] if they are self-isolating.

Note: Residents who are self-isolating and/or quarantined in their residence room should adhere to the public health directives located at: <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/95bd-COVID-19-How-to-Self-Isolate.pdf>. Specifically, residents self-isolating or quarantining in their residence rooms are prohibited from accessing or using shared residence facilities, such as laundry rooms, fitness rooms, study spaces and cafeterias and must remain in their room at all times. Residents who need to open the door of their self-isolation accommodation (e.g., to retrieve groceries or meals) must wash their hands immediately before doing so, and wear a face covering when the door is open.

8. SANCTIONS

Non-compliance with these rules may pose a health and safety threat to the community and will be treated as a serious matter. The University will make every effort to resolve these issues informally when possible and appropriate but may also impose sanctions where individuals or groups of students are not in compliance with these rules. These sanctions will depend on the nature of the non-compliance, the place in which it occurred, and the impact on others. Sanctions include but are not limited to fines, restricted access to spaces, and expulsion from the residence. Enforcement, sanctions and appeals to sanctions will be carried out in accordance with existing residence policy. The University reserves the right to report non-compliance to Public Health officials or to any other official, within or outside the University, who need to know about the non-compliance in order to protect the health and safety of the University community or the public.

GUIDELINES, INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

- Handwashing and hygiene are critical to reducing the spread of COVID-19. Hands should be washed frequently and with soap and water for 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol. Touching one's eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands should be avoided.
- The University has implemented changes to cleaning protocol that include increased frequency of cleaning of shared public spaces and additional hand sanitizer stations and wipe dispensers in many high-traffic, high-use areas.

- Recognizing that student residents may require additional support during COVID-19, the University has made available a number of [supports](#) available to you. These supports include the Health and Wellness Office and a special program called U of T My Student Support Program that provides students with immediate and/or ongoing confidential, 24-hour support for any school, health, or general life concern at no cost to students.
- Overall well-being-including physical and mental health is a significant part of what makes students academically successful. If you require additional supports please do not hesitate to reach out the Office of the Dean of Students or the Office of the Registrar and Academic Advising. Victoria University also has personal counsellors who are accessible by contacting Health and Wellness at U of T (416-978-8030) or asking for a referral from staff in either the Dean’s Office or the Registrar’s Office.
 - Office of the Dean of Students
 - (416) 585-4494
vic.dean@utoronto.ca
 - Office of the Registrar and Academic Advising
 - (416) 585-4508
 - vic.registrar@utoronto.ca

Residence Dons are also available for peer support. You can access a Residence Don by calling the 24 hour Residence Services Desk at 416-585-4524. Residence Dons will also be providing lots of virtual community programming for students in residence, covering a wide range of topics from self-care and wellness strategies to support for transition into university, while also building community through social activities.

- All students who test positive for COVID-19 should immediately take the following actions:
 - report this result directly to U of T’s Occupational Health Nurse by email at ehs.occhealth@utoronto.ca;
 - report their diagnosis to the **Office of the Dean of Students** by calling **416-508-8313**; and
 - complete the **self-declaration form through ACORN**
- For more general information:
 - [Toronto Public Health Hotline](#) is available to answer questions about COVID-19 from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Translation will be available in multiple languages. Phone: 416-388-7600; TTY: 416-392-0658; Email: PublicHealth@toronto.ca
 - [Telehealth Ontario](#) is a free, confidential service available to get health advice or information (including but not limited to COVID). Calls are answered by Registered Nurses who respond 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Phone: 1-866-797-0000 or TTY: 1-866-797-0007
 - <https://www.utoronto.ca/utogether2020> provides helpful resources for students.

For further information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at [vic.dean@utoronto.ca].