Fall 2021 COVID-19 FAQs

COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

How do I learn about campus health and safety measures?
The Fall 2021 COVID-19 Protocols provide the overview of expectations of conduct around COVID-19. Signage around campus and messages in the daily Whitman Today e-newsletter share information on traffic patterns, general wellness practices and other details as necessary. Additional updates are sent by email from Peter Harvey, the Coronavirus Task Force Chair, and from members of the task force through covidtesting@whitman.edu. General inquiries can be sent to covidtesting@whitman.edu.

TESTING

How often will I be tested for coronavirus?
All students, faculty and staff will be tested twice for coronavirus upon returning for the fall semester. Results will be shared with the community via a dashboard on the Whitman website. Ongoing testing will be available as needed for faculty, staff and students who have symptoms of COVID-19 or who have been close contacts to someone on campus with COVID-19.

What type of COVID testing is available at Whitman?
Our health center will offer testing for Whitman faculty, staff and students who have symptoms of COVID-19 or who have been a close contact to someone on campus who has COVID-19. These may be rapid antigen tests or cepheid PCR tests depending on the situation. Our baseline tests are PCR tests processed at an external laboratory.

What will happen if someone tests positive for coronavirus?
Any student who lives on campus and has a positive coronavirus test will enter isolation in specifically designated campus housing. Any student who lives off campus and has a positive test will have the option to isolate within their house or in the campus isolation housing. The Welty Student Health Center will help coordinate medical care, food will be provided and professors are prepared to offer accommodations, including remote learning for classes that are in-person or hybrid. Walla Walla County Department of Health and Whitman College will work together on contact tracing and making sure that any exposed individuals are notified and able to quarantine appropriately.

Where can I find out about the number of COVID-19 cases on campus?
We will provide weekly updates on the number of COVID-19 cases on campus through our COVID-19 Dashboard.
QUARANTINE

What is quarantine and why is it necessary?
Quarantine is the time in which a person who may have COVID-19 limits their exposure to others by staying within their rooms/residences while they await results of a COVID-19 test. Whitman’s quarantine practices follow CDC guidance, dependent upon whether a person is vaccinated or not. Vaccinated students who are asymptomatic do not need to quarantine.

Will students be allowed to leave their rooms at all during quarantine?
Students in quarantine will not be allowed to leave their residences.

Can students in quarantine attend classes?
No. Academic accommodations will be made for any student in quarantine. Students in quarantine should contact their professors to discuss the options available based on classroom structure and pedagogy.

How will students in quarantine get food?
During quarantine, students in quarantine on campus will have food delivered to them and will receive other support services from Residence Life.

Students in off-campus quarantine should use grocery delivery or curbside pick-up services to minimize their potential interactions.

ISOLATION

What is isolation and why is it necessary?
Isolation is the time in which a person has COVID-19 limits their exposure to others by staying within designated isolation housing until they are recovered from COVID-19.

Where do students stay during isolation?
On-campus isolation housing is available at Marcus House for students regardless of whether their regular residence is on-campus or off-campus. Students in isolation on campus will have food delivered to them and will receive other support services from Residence Life.

Students in off-campus isolation should use grocery delivery or curbside pick-up services to minimize their potential interactions.

Can students in isolation attend classes?
No. Academic accommodations will be made for any student in isolation. Students in isolation should contact their professors to discuss the options available based on classroom structure and pedagogy.

How will students in isolation get food?
During isolation, students in quarantine on campus will have food delivered to them and will receive other support services from Residence Life.
Students in off-campus quarantine should use grocery delivery or curbside pick-up services to minimize their potential interactions.

**How long does isolation last?**
That depends on whether or not the individual has symptoms of COVID-19.

If you have symptoms and a positive test for COVID-19, you must isolate at home/in designated on-campus isolation housing until:

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared and
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving

If you have no symptoms but test positive for COVID-19, you must isolate at home/in designated on-campus isolation housing until 10 days have passed since you had a positive viral test for COVID-19.

**ACADEMICS**

**What if I am unable to attend class due to being in quarantine or isolation?**
Faculty are prepared to accommodate students who are temporarily unable to attend classes in-person due to illness or possible exposure. Students in this situation should contact their professors as soon as possible to discuss what options are available based on class structure and teaching methods.

**MORE QUESTIONS**

**I have questions that were not answered here. Who do I talk to?**
For questions about testing and the coronavirus task force:
Peter Harvey (harvey@whitman.edu; 509-527-5145)

For questions about student life:
Kazi Joshua (joshuake@whitman.edu; 509-527-5158)

For questions about residence life:
Nancy Tavelli (tavelln@whitman.edu; 509-527-5297)

For questions about academic:
Alzada Tipton (tiptona@whitman.edu; (509) 527-5398)