

Columbus Public Health Guidance for Non-Residential Housing among Ohio State Students

Quarantine is for people who have been exposed to COVID-19 (from close contact with a person infected with COVID-19), but are not yet ill. Quarantine means to stay separated from others, at home in a residence or congregate living situation.

Isolation is for people who have COVID-19 infection (either known because of a positive test or diagnosed based on symptoms), to restrict their movement to stop the spread of illness. Isolation means to stay separated from others, at home in a residence or congregate living situation.

If a dwelling has cases and contacts:

- Meal preparation and delivery should be arranged to have no contact between cook staff and household members.
- Social distancing of at least 6 feet must be maintained by cook staff in the kitchen.
- Meals should be brought to those in isolation and quarantine so they can eat in their rooms.
- Required maintenance should be arranged to have no contact between the maintenance staff and household members.
- Cleaning by outside cleaning staff should be suspended.

According to Ohio State testing directives, all people who are ordered to quarantine should go to Student Health Services two to three days after quarantine has been ordered to be tested. A negative test does not shorten their time in quarantine.

Best Practice:

- People in quarantine should have a room to themselves with a door that closes. They must stay in that room to avoid potentially exposing others. They may leave the room, wearing a mask and staying physically distanced, only to obtain medical care, including any required COVID-19 testing. All people in quarantine who have not had a positive COVID-19 test will undergo baseline COVID-19 testing at day #2 or day #3 after starting quarantine. They should not share a bathroom if possible. If they must share a bathroom, clean and disinfect surfaces each time after they use the bathroom. Quarantine, when practiced exactly as described above, lasts 14 days, starting with the day after last exposure to a case.
- People in isolation may share a room with another person in isolation. They must stay in that room to avoid potentially exposing others. They may leave the room, wearing a mask and staying physically distanced, only to obtain medical care, including any required COVID-19 testing. They should not share a bathroom if possible. If they must share a bathroom, they must clean and disinfect surfaces each time after they use the bathroom. Isolation lasts at least 10 days, starting with the day after positive test or symptoms.

If bathrooms must be shared, thorough cleaning with EPA-registered disinfectants must be conducted at least twice daily in morning and evening, as well as after times of heavy usage. Continuous supply of soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer and disinfectant must be made available. Waste baskets must also be emptied regularly.

Best practice described above, in which people in quarantine do not share a room with others in quarantine, is strongly recommended. If it is *impossible* for all people in quarantine to have their own rooms, “family” guidance can be practiced.

- People in isolation (those who have a positive COVID-19 test) can share a room. All household members who test positive for COVID-19 will need to go into isolation (10 days starting after the day of the test or start of symptoms) and follow Columbus Public Health (CPH) guidance for isolation.
- People in quarantine (those exposed to someone with COVID-19) can share a room. People in quarantine must test according to Ohio State's directive and follow Columbus Public Health (CPH) guidance for quarantine:
 - Testing will take place at Student Health Services.
 - Household members who have not had a positive COVID-19 test will undergo baseline COVID-19 testing at day #2 or day #3 after starting quarantine.
 - Household members who test negative for COVID-19 will remain in quarantine (14 days), follow CPH guidance on quarantine, and undergo re-testing at day #7 and day #14 from the day of quarantine initiation (day #1).
 - Household members who develop symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 at any point in time, including during the quarantine period, should go into isolation and be tested for COVID-19.
 - Household members in quarantine who test positive for COVID-19 will need to go into isolation (10 days starting after the day of the test or start of symptoms) and follow CPH guidance for isolation.
 - Household members in quarantine who are exposed to a case of COVID-19 at any point during the quarantine period (for example, due to sharing a room with a person who has a positive test), will need to re-start the quarantine period, undergo repeat COVID-19 testing, and re-test again at day #7 and day #14 from the start of the new quarantine period (day #1). They should continue to follow CPH guidance for quarantine.
 - Household members who complete the required quarantine period after being exposed to a case of COVID-19, and wish to remain in the group house should undergo repeat COVID-19 testing every 7 days and at any point in time if they develop symptoms suggestive for COVID-19. This frequency of COVID-19 testing (every 7 days) for group house members should continue at least until there are no more house members in quarantine OR in isolation.
- People who are in isolation must not share bathrooms with people who are in quarantine.

Once people are cleared from their personal timeline of isolation and quarantine, they may begin co-residing and going out in public.

Reference:

COVID-19 Guidance for Shared or Congregate Housing

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/shared-congregate-house/guidance-shared-congregate-housing.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/shared-congregate-house/guidance-shared-congregate-housing.html#resident-has-covid19>