

# **Interim Policy on COVID-19 Testing Enforcement and Clearance for Students**

## **I. Scope of Authority**

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Baylor requires students to complete mandatory COVID-19 testing to begin the fall 2020 semester and regularly required COVID-19 testing for the academic year. Students are expected to comply with all directives related to this interim policy. This expectation will remain in place until the University makes an official announcement otherwise. Each of us, as a member of a Christian University, has a responsibility to make decisions that place the health and wellbeing of all members of our community as our highest priority as we work together to acquire education in a mutually healthy way.

As guided by current science to limit the spread of COVID-19, Baylor University is requiring students to not only test before arriving to campus, but to also test frequently throughout the semester. Because approximately half of all infections would otherwise go undetected (because of lack of signs and symptoms of disease), frequent testing of otherwise healthy individuals will allow Baylor University to identify these asymptomatic cases, initiate isolation and quarantine as necessary, prevent the further spread of infection, and maintain in-person course instruction and student/campus activities. Without frequent testing, asymptomatic cases will contribute to the spread of the virus at Baylor and in the greater Waco community, contributing to more death, disability, and economic suppression. The Baylor community must prioritize our communal obligation to keep one another healthy.

## **II. University Notification and Compliance**

As stated in University policy, each Baylor student is personally responsible for checking his or her Baylor email on a regular and recurring basis for receipt of official University correspondence. The written notice regarding testing that has been sent to the student at his or her Baylor email account constitutes full and adequate notice of these requirements.

Because regularly testing is so important to maintaining the health and safety of our campus community, it is vital that each student follows the requirements of this interim policy. In the event there is a complaint of alleged noncompliance, the failure to comply will be reviewed by Student Conduct Administration as consistent with the Student Conduct Code and this interim policy. Should a student be found responsible for violating this interim policy then the student will be subject to a range of sanctions including but not limited to loss of privilege to attend in-person Baylor classes, restricted access to University resources, restricted access to the Baylor campus, as well as possible separation from the University if the situation is determined to warrant such action. Students should understand that this interim policy has been implemented to protect their safety as well as the safety of the community.

## **III. Requirements for Completed Testing**

### **All Students**

All students must submit a required test unless otherwise directed by University Health Services. Students who have not completed the University's required testing will be limited to online engagement with in-person classes and their access to campus property and buildings (including moving into the residence halls) and/or campus events will be restricted until they have submitted their test result to the University's Health administrators and, if the test was positive, complied fully with isolation requirements which generally includes self-isolating for 10 days after symptom onset or positive test.

Students will be required by the University to undergo further testing as deemed necessary to protect the safety of the community. Testing options are available in the Waco community, through the Baylor Health Center, and on-campus through a third-party vendor (My Labs Direct).

### **On-Campus Students**

In addition to the requirements for all students noted above, on-campus students will be restricted from moving into their residence hall room and will need to reside in alternate housing (e.g. hotel, return home) until they have submitted their test result to the University's Health administrators and, if the test was positive, complied fully with isolation requirements which generally includes self-isolating in an alternate housing location for 10 days after symptom onset or positive test.

### **International Students:**

International students traveling from outside the U.S. are required to test 1-3 days before departure and test again 3-5 days after travel. Students are required to quarantine for 7 days after travel. Even if a student tests and the results are negative, they are required to stay in quarantine for the full 7 days.

International students who do not complete testing will be limited to online engagement with in-person classes and, if their residence is on campus, will be required to live in an alternate housing location until they have submitted their test result to the University's Health administrators and, if the test was positive, complied fully with isolation requirements which generally includes self-isolating for 10 days after symptom onset or positive test.

### **U.S. Students Who Have Traveled Abroad Recently**

U.S. citizens who have traveled abroad are required to follow the same guidelines as international students. U.S. students who do not complete testing will be limited to online engagement with in-person classes and, if their residence is on campus, will be required to live in an alternate housing location (e.g. hotel, return home) until they have submitted their test result to the University's Health administrators and, if the test was positive, complied fully with isolation requirements which generally includes self-isolating for 10 days after symptom onset or positive test.

## **IV. Clearance Processes**

As noted above in Section III, students who have not completed the required testing or have a positive test will not be allowed to attend in-person classes, move into the

residence halls, or access campus buildings or campus events until they have been cleared to do so by the University's Health administrators. The clearance process will require the student to submit their Everlywell test and, if the test was positive, comply fully with isolation requirements which generally includes self-isolating for 10 days after symptom onset or positive test.

## **V. Enforcement Process**

Due to the importance of testing to mitigate the spread of the virus, it is vital that each student follows the requirements of this interim policy. In the event there is a complaint of alleged noncompliance, Baylor's Student Conduct Administration office will notify the student of the alleged complaint and seek the student's compliance with the interim policy. Should the student choose not to comply (complete the required testing and if needed self-isolate as directed) then appropriate action(s) will be initiated as outlined in Section II above and the following more immediate steps may be taken: disabling the student's Bear ID, placing a hold on their registration, and notifying their professors.

## **V. Policy Updates**

This requirement—a vital part of our many COVID-19 mitigation efforts—is in place until further notice by Baylor University and is subject to change based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and in coordination with the City of Waco and state of Texas health directives. The layering of strategies to prevent COVID-19 spread that we expect all members of the Baylor community to practice include self-assessment for symptoms, handwashing, cleaning and disinfecting, wearing face coverings, maintaining social distance between other people, and staying home when not feeling well. The University strongly encourages the campus community to continue to practice all of these healthy habits daily.

*Revised* by Health Management Team on  
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