Interim Policy Concerning Self-Quarantine for Students Residing in Baylor On-Campus Housing During COVID-19

I. Scope of Authority

This interim policy outlines behavioral expectations for students residing in on-campus housing who have been instructed to self-quarantine. Student-athletes may receive additional or different directives from health care providers working with the Baylor Athletic Department, and if so, they must follow those directives, including any directive to quarantine. Students are expected to comply with all directives related to this interim policy. Behavioral expectations will be enforced under the Baylor Student Conduct Code. Baylor has deemed it appropriate during the COVID-19 Pandemic to require students residing in on-campus housing to self-quarantine if there is reason to believe they may have COVID-19, but have not been tested, or have been tested but have not yet received test results. This interim policy is not for students residing in on-campus housing who have tested positive for COVID-19. Any student residing in on-campus housing who tests positive for COVID-19 should refer to the Interim Policy Concerning Students Residing in Baylor Provided Self-Isolation Housing During COVID-19.

This policy adopts the CDC definition of quarantine in relation to COVID-19. The CDC defines quarantine in relation to COVID-19 as follows: “Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. Quarantine helps prevent spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department.” (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html)

II. Notification

If a student residing in on-campus housing has reason to believe that they may have COVID-19, they must notify the Baylor Health Center by calling the dedicated line for concerns regarding COVID-19, 254-710-4939. The Baylor Health Center will provide further instructions on how to proceed. Reasons to believe a student may reasonably have COVID-19 include, but are not limited to, situations such as: a student exhibiting symptoms typical of COVID-19; a student being known to have been in close contact...
with someone who recently tested positive for COVID-19; or a student being known to have been present at an event where a COVID-19 outbreak has been identified. The CDC defines close contact as: “a) being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time; close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a health care waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case -or- b) having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on)” (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html)

III. Being Assigned to Required Self-Quarantine

Students may be instructed to self-quarantine under this interim policy by University personnel from Campus Living & Learning or the Baylor Health Center.

Students residing in on-campus housing may be instructed to self-quarantine if, at the discretion of University personnel, there is reason to believe they may have COVID-19, but have not been tested, or have been tested but have not yet received test results.

If, at the discretion of University personnel from the aforementioned offices, a student residing in on-campus housing is instructed to self-quarantine they will receive written notice of such a requirement to their Baylor e-mail. Written communication may occur through Baylor email. The written notice will be sent to the student at his or her Baylor email account and will constitute full and adequate notice of the implementation of this interim policy. 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 University reserves the right to use other forms of communication (local or home mailing address) as deemed necessary.

The student will be assigned a Self-Quarantine Contact Staff Member who will serve as a point of first contact and work with the student to answer questions the student may have related to these self-quarantine requirements. In addition to the Self-Quarantine Contact Staff Member, the student also may be contacted by, or may reach out to, other University offices who may provide support or guidance as appropriate. Such offices may include, Campus Living & Learning, the Baylor Health Center, and the Missions and Public Life Office (Spiritual Life). When communicating with other offices via e-mail, the student is encouraged to copy their Self-Quarantine Contact Staff Member if they are comfortable doing so.
IV. Behavioral Expectations for Students Residing in On-Campus Housing who are Instructed to Self-Quarantine

a. Length of Self-Quarantine

Upon being instructed to self-quarantine, the Baylor Health Center will determine the appropriate length of the student’s self-quarantine. Baylor officials will consult CDC guidelines concerning quarantine and/or other appropriate guidance in determining the appropriate length of the self-quarantine. Students instructed to self-quarantine must remain in compliance of this interim policy until either the end of their determined self-quarantine period or until they are given notice by the Baylor Health Center that they may end their period of self-quarantine. Consistent with CDC guidelines, the Baylor Health Center will generally not end self-quarantine early, even if the student tests negative for COVID-19. The student may not access other Baylor campus locations or facilities until cleared to do so. Access to public areas in the student’s campus residential facility may also be restricted as determined by Campus Living & Learning.

b. COVID-19 Testing

If a student who has been instructed to self-quarantine takes a COVID-19 test, of their own initiative, or at the instruction of the Baylor Health Center or other medical facility, the result of such a test does not end the requirement for self-quarantine. If such a test is conducted off-campus and comes back positive, the student must immediately notify the Baylor Health Center who will provide the student with further instructions under the Interim Policy Concerning Students Residing in Baylor Provided Self-Isolation Housing During COVID-19. If such a test is conducted off-campus and comes back negative, the student must notify the Baylor Health Center and provide documentation of the negative test result. Unless the student is provided notice from the Baylor Health Center that they may end their self-quarantine early, even with a negative test result, the student will still be required to continue self-quarantine until the end of the determined period. Consistent with CDC guidelines, the Baylor Health Center will generally not end self-quarantine early, even if the student tests negative for COVID-19.

c. Quarantine Behavioral Expectations

During the determined length of time that a student residing in on-campus housing is required to self-quarantine, the student must follow this quarantine protocol. The student may not leave the residence hall or apartment complex they reside in, except in case of emergency and must contact their Self-Quarantine Contact Staff Member to make them aware of the emergency. If the student lives in a residence hall, they should not leave
their room (specifically their bedroom if they live in a suite), except to use the closest bathroom or the on-site laundry facility. If a student lives in a suite, they may go to the hallway door for the purpose of retrieving contactless deliveries (such as food) but must wear a mask when doing so. If a student leaves their room to use the bathroom or the laundry facility, they must wear a mask at all times when in public spaces outside of their room. Students should return to their room as soon as possible and avoid interaction with others to the greatest extent possible while outside of their room. If the student lives in an apartment, they should not leave their bedroom except to use the closest in-apartment bathroom, the closest laundry facilities in their apartment complex, or to retrieve a contactless delivery from the front door/main entrance to the apartment. If a student leaves their bedroom for one of the aforementioned reasons, they must wear a mask at all times when in public spaces outside of their bedroom. Students should return to their bedroom as soon as possible and avoid interaction with others to the greatest extent possible while outside of their bedroom. Students will not be allowed to enter any public spaces in their residence hall/apartment complex, such as lobbies or communal kitchens, not previously mentioned in this interim policy. If there is a dining facility in the residence hall the student lives in, the student will not be allowed to enter the dining facility during their period of self-quarantine.

If a student needs medical attention or services provided by the Baylor Health Center during their time in self-quarantine, they must contact the Baylor Health Center, via phone or e-mail, for assistance. At their discretion, the Baylor Health Center will provide further instructions to the student depending upon the circumstance. The Baylor Health Center may under this interim policy instruct the student to leave their residence hall or apartment for the purpose of receiving medical care. While outside of a student’s residence hall or apartment they must wear a mask at all times, unless instructed otherwise by the Baylor Health Center, and follow all instructions provided by the Baylor Health Center.

If the student is on a meal plan through Baylor dining, Baylor will coordinate with the student to deliver contactless meals. If the student is not on a meal plan, the student will be provided with resource information for grocery or meal delivery to be furnished at their own expense. If a student wishes to exercise, they must do so within the residence hall or apartment they reside in and may not do so outside. If a student chooses to have food, groceries, supplies, etc., delivered, via a personal acquaintance or via a third-party service, they may do so at their own expense and such delivery must be contactless and there must not be any physical interaction between the student and the person delivering the goods. A student may not have any guests at any time during their self-quarantine period. Guest restrictions may also apply to the student’s roommate and/or suitemates as determined by Campus Living & Learning administrators. Additional expectations may also be provided depending upon the specific residence hall or apartment the student resides in. Any such additional expectations provided are to be assumed to have the same authority as guidance specifically outlined in this interim policy.
Baylor will ensure that the student instructed to self-quarantine under this interim policy has access to the materials necessary to be able to participate virtually in Baylor classes. If the student in self-quarantine needs help acquiring the materials necessary to be able to virtually participate in Baylor classes, they should direct such inquiries to their Self-Quarantine Contact Staff Member.

V. Exception for Choosing to Live with Parent/Guardian/Immediate Family (with Prior Approval)

As previously outlined in this policy, a student instructed to self-quarantine may not have any guests while in self-quarantine, which includes close relationships such as parents/guardians/immediate family. However, if a student, in consultation with a parent/guardian/immediate family member, believes they would rather stay with their parent/guardian/immediate family member, instead of residing in their assigned on-campus housing during self-quarantine, they may request approval to do so. In the interest of ensuring public safety, such a request must be submitted to the Baylor Health Center for approval. Unless such approval is granted, the student must continue to follow all provisions of this interim policy and must continue to reside in their assigned on-campus housing.

An important objective of the Baylor Health Center is to promote health and safety among individuals, the Baylor campus, and the public, and this objective will guide the Baylor Health Center’s decision as to whether or not to grant approval for an exception to this policy which would allow a student to reside with a parent/guardian/immediate family member during their period of self-quarantine. To aid the Baylor Health Center in making such a decision, the student should consider how they plan to safely self-quarantine and be prepared to communicate that plan to the Baylor Health Center. Specifically, the student should be prepared to demonstrate to the Baylor Health Center that they have made arrangements with a parent/guardian/immediate family member who has agreed to house them during their period of self-quarantine. Additionally, the student should also be prepared to demonstrate that they have a means of private transportation (such as their own car or the parent/guardian/immediate family member being willing to pick them up in their car) by which they can travel to the parent/guardian/immediate family member’s housing. The student may not use any public transportation (such as, but not limited to, airlines, trains, buses, ride sharing, etc.) which would cause them to come in contact with anyone other than the previously identified parent/guardian/immediate family member.

While in self-quarantine at the residence of the parent/guardian/immediate family member, Baylor offices such as Campus Living & Learning, the Missions and Public Life
office (Spiritual Life), and the Baylor Health Center, may continue to contact the student and the student must remain in timely correspondence with them. The student must also, at their own expense, ensure they have access to the materials needed to participate in virtual classes at Baylor. The resources and services provided by Baylor that are mentioned under Section IV, subsection c., of this interim policy, such as meal delivery, will generally not be available to the student if they choose to live with a parent/guardian/immediate family member, during their period of self-quarantine. Further, the student will not receive any refund on their housing contract or meal plan for lodging and meals they forgo while choosing to live with a parent/guardian/immediate family member during their period of self-quarantine.

While in self-quarantine at the residence of the parent/guardian/immediate family member, the student is expected not to leave the residence of the parent/guardian/immediate family member and to follow CDC guidelines for self-quarantine. The student may not return to campus until they receive clearance from the Baylor Health Center.

VI. Failure to Comply

Failure to comply with this interim policy will be processed under the Student Conduct Code which could include interim removal from the Baylor campus, including the residence hall or apartment, and classes as well as possible suspension or expulsion from the University. Students should understand that this interim policy has been implemented to protect the safety of the community.

A student found to not be in compliance with this interim policy may not use a negative COVID-19 test result as an excuse for non-compliance, even if the non-compliant behavior was observed after the negative test result came back. As previously mentioned, a student residing in on-campus housing who has been instructed to self-quarantine must do so until either the end of their determined self-quarantine period or until they are given notice by the Baylor Health Center that they may end their period of self-quarantine.