

Interim Policy Concerning Students Residing in Baylor Provided Self-Isolation Housing During COVID-19

I. Scope of Authority

This interim policy outlines behavioral expectations for students residing in Baylor provided self-isolation housing. 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 isolate. 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 provide self-isolation housing units, which are off campus, to students who have tested positive for COVID-19. Baylor provided self-isolation housing units will be considered an extension of the Baylor campus while used for this purpose and all Baylor policies will apply during the use of this facility. Alcohol, tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, and other prohibited items on the Baylor campus apply to the self-isolation housing space.

This policy adopts the CDC definition of isolation in relation to COVID-19. The CDC defines isolation in relation to COVID-19 as follows: “isolation is used to separate people infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, from people who are not infected. People who are in isolation should stay home until it’s safe for them to be around others. In the home, anyone sick or infected should separate themselves from others by staying in a specific “sick room” or area and using a separate bathroom (if available).” (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html>)

II. Notification

If a student residing in on-campus housing takes a COVID-19 test, of their own initiative, or at the instruction of the Baylor Health Center or other medical facility, they must report the results of such a test to the Baylor Health Center. If such a test comes back positive, the student must immediately 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.

III. Assignment to a Baylor Provided Self-Isolation Housing Unit

Students will be placed in self-isolation housing in coordination with Campus Living & Learning, the Missions and Public Life office (Spiritual Life), and the Baylor Health Center.

Such housing will, as appropriate, be required of any student who lives in on-campus housing, and tests positive for COVID-19. Such housing will be provided at no additional room cost to the student (students may, however, incur other living expenses such as food which they are responsible for).

Once a student tests positive and receives confirmation of the test result, as previously stated in this interim policy, they must notify the Baylor Health Center by calling the dedicated line for concerns regarding COVID-19, 254-710-4939. If the Baylor Health Center was the one that administered the test, the student should still reach out to the Baylor Health Center to receive further instructions under this interim policy. Upon being notified of the student's positive test, the Baylor Health Center will provide the student with written directions regarding the requirement to go directly to their designated self-isolation housing location. 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-Isolation 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-isolation housing requirements. In addition to the Self-Isolation 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-Isolation Contact Staff Member if they are comfortable doing so.

If the student does not have transportation, the Baylor Health Center and other departments will work with them to provide transportation.

IV. Behavioral Expectations for Students Residing in a Baylor Provided Self-Isolation Housing Unit

a. Length of Stay

Upon being placed in Baylor provided self-isolation housing, the Baylor Health Center will determine the appropriate length of stay in isolation housing. Baylor officials will consult CDC guidelines concerning quarantine and isolation and/or other appropriate guidance in determining the appropriate length of stay. Students in self-isolation housing with a positive COVID-19 test must remain in residence in the Baylor provided self-isolation housing unit until the end of the determined period. The student may not return to any Baylor campus location or facility until cleared to do so.

b. Isolation Behavioral Expectations

During the determined length of time that a student resides in Baylor provided self-isolation housing, the student must follow this isolation protocol. The student may not leave the Baylor provided self-isolation housing unit, except in case of emergency and must contact their Self-Isolation Contact Staff member to make them aware of the emergency. If the student is on a meal plan through Baylor dining services, Baylor will coordinate with the student to deliver 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 Baylor provided self-isolation housing unit 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 in their Baylor provided self-isolation housing unit. Additional expectations may also be provided depending upon the specific housing unit that is provided. Any such additional guidance provided is to be assumed to have the same authority as guidance specifically outlined in this interim policy.

If a student needs medical attention or services provided by the Baylor Health Center during their time in self-isolation housing, 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 self-isolation housing for the purpose of receiving medical care. While outside of a student's Baylor provided self-isolation housing unit, 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.

Baylor will ensure that the student in Baylor provided self-isolation housing has access to the materials necessary to be able to participate virtually in Baylor classes while residing in Baylor provided self-isolation housing. If the student in Baylor provided self-isolation housing needs help acquiring the materials necessary to be able to virtually participate in Baylor classes or needs help acquiring any other materials to make their stay reasonably comfortable (such as help acquiring basic hygiene items), they should direct such inquiries to their Self-Isolation Contact Staff Member.

c. Respect and Care for Space

Each Baylor provided self-isolation housing comes fully furnished with furniture and amenities appropriate to the specific space. Amenities such as disposable dishes, cups and eating utensils may be provided by the University if warranted. The student is asked to keep in mind that it is a temporary space and to refrain from making any changes to the space or furniture. The student is also responsible for the care and maintenance of the space during their stay. If there is any damage found or excessive cleaning/maintenance required when the student moves out, the student may be charged for the cost of restoring the space. If the space has been reasonably maintained, the student will not be charged for the space to be cleaned after they move out.

In addition to care of the space, the student is also expected to reasonably maintain the space during the duration of their stay. Specific guidance will be given as to what those expectations are based upon the specific space. For example though, the student will be expected to put their trash into a trash bag/s and instructions will be given as to how they are expected to dispose of such trash without leaving the Baylor provided self-isolation housing unit.

d. Directives of Property Management

Baylor provided self-isolation housing units are dedicated spaces contracted from third-party vendors and as such are not operated by Baylor University. Baylor will work closely with such vendors to share understanding and enforcement of this interim policy. A student residing in Baylor provided self-isolation housing is expected to comply with any directives given by the property management staff of the third-party vendor operating the Baylor provided self-isolation housing unit the student resides in.

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

As previously outlined in this policy, a student assigned to self-isolation housing may not have any guests while in self-isolation housing, which includes close relationships such as parents/guardians/immediate family. However, if a student, in consultation with a parent/guardian/immediate family member, believes it would be more beneficial for them to stay with their parent/guardian/immediate family member, instead of residing in self-isolation housing, 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 proceed to, or continue to, reside in their Baylor provided self-isolation housing unit.

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-isolation. To aid the Baylor Health Center in making such a decision, the student should consider how they plan to safely self-isolate 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-isolation. 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-isolation 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 b., 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-isolation. 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-isolation.

While in self-isolation 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-isolation. 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 self-isolation facility, 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.