

UVic Homestay Program Safe Arrival Protocols and Host Expectations

As we welcome international students back to UVic and Victoria, our top priority is the health and safety of our students, host families, campus and community. The UVic Homestay Program is obligated to follow the regulations and recommendations of the federal and the provincial governments, as well as the local public health authority.

The following priority requirements and considerations will be in effect regardless of which phase of BC's Restart Plan that the province is currently in:

- The UVic Homestay Program expects that students and homestays will familiarize themselves with [BC's Restart Plan](#), specifically how to keep transmission low:
 - ✓ Stay at home and keep a safe distance from family when you have cold or flu symptoms,
 - ✓ Continue to practice proper recommended hygiene guidelines,
 - ✓ Practice physical distancing when outside of the home, avoid malls, crowded spaces, etc.

- If a household member (including homestay students) were to contract COVID-19 or express associated symptoms (coughing, sneezing, fever, etc.) during the homestay contract period, the program will work with the student and host to follow public health guidelines.
 - ✓ The UVic Homestay Program aims to avoid spreading COVID-19 with unnecessary relocations. Our preference is to keep the student in place, in accordance with Public Health direction.

Additional program rules and restrictions may be implemented without notice based on requirements implemented by UVic Health & Safety, the BC Government, the Canadian Government, and other governmental agencies.

If the BC Government assesses that the province is to return to a previous phase of BC's Restart Plan, the UVic Homestay Program services and requirements will match those as outlined by the government and hosts and students will be expected to follow those requirements depending on the phase as determined by the Province of BC.

Participants who breach UVic Homestay requirements as outlined below may have their homestay contract terminated and be removed from the program.

HOST EXPECTATIONS

Pre-Arrival - Best Practices:

- Build your relationship with your student before they arrive in Victoria - it will make their stay go much more smoothly.
- Begin to communicate and build a relationship with your student prior to their arrival.
- Have several Skype, FaceTime, or Zoom meetings to get to know one another. Exchange ideas about your hobbies, favourite foods, pets, families and more.
- Exchange emails and phone numbers and program into your mobile phone.

Arrival information – Best Practices

For arrival, please discuss how and where you will be meeting your student upon their arrival.

We encourage you to prepare a sign with their name to help you find one another.

You may wish to:

- Take wipes and disinfecting spray with you and ask the student to disinfect their luggage – students will load their own luggage into your car.
- If you prefer, offer your student the back-seat on the passenger side of the vehicle, or as far from the driver as possible. Open windows during the drive home if weather permits.
- Have a new disposable face mask available for the student in case the student is not wearing a mask.

Upon arrival at your home – Best Practices

- Provide your student with a welcome package including your Wi-Fi login/password info, snacks, information about your family and neighbourhood.

If your student has a positive COVID-19 test result or has symptoms consistent with COVID-19

Students ill with COVID-19, or who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, should stay at home, and keep away from others to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Self-isolation for a defined period of time is no longer required. If a student or family member is diagnosed with COVID-19, our protocol is to keep the student in place, in accordance with Public Health direction.

Students are encouraged to do a daily health assessment (<https://covidcheck.gov.bc.ca/>) before coming to campus, and are asked to let their teacher or instructor know about any absences.

PLEASE NOTE: Should self-isolation be once again required by the BCCDC, students ill with COVID-19 (due to a positive test result) will need to pay an additional \$25/night homestay fee for the duration of their self-isolation period on top of the regular monthly homestay fee.

Should a student's home country require a negative PCR test for entry, and a student receive a positive travel PCR test result just prior to their departure, we ask that the student stay in their current homestay. However, if this is not possible we will help them to find a hotel where they can isolate and help arrange for meals. Students will need to pay the additional costs per night to their homestay family or as per the hotel and meal charges incurred.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the UVic Homestay Program.

As of November 17, 2022, the BCCDC recommends the following:

Students and household members that have symptoms and/or tests positive for COVID-19, should stay home until fever is gone, without the use of medications, and feel well enough to participate in daily activities.

COVID-19 is now managed in a manner similar to other vaccine-preventable respiratory illnesses.

Prevention:

1. Hand washing: One of the best things you can do to prevent infection is to wash your hands regularly and avoid touching your face.

2. Physical distancing: It is more important to respect people's personal space. Limiting close contact with other people and keeping two metres (six feet) away from one another can help reduce the spread of respiratory illnesses like COVID-19.

3. Wearing a mask: We encourage you to wear a mask in indoor public spaces, particularly if you are close to others or feel more comfortable doing so. Masks are most effective when fitted, worn and handled correctly. They act as a barrier and, in combination with other measures, can help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

4. Cleaning and disinfecting: Cleaning with household cleaning and disinfectant products can help prevent the spread of illness including COVID-19. Frequently touched surfaces such as toilets, sink tap handles, doorknobs, light switches, and tables should be cleaned at least daily.

Students staying home while sick are encouraged to:

- Keep their room well-ventilated and clean
- Practice good hygiene:
 - o Wash hands frequently with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - o Use a separate towel which is kept away from others.
 - o Cover mouth and nose with elbow (or use a tissue) when coughing or sneezing. Dispose of used tissues right away into a trash bin and immediately wash your hands.

- Use a separate bathroom if possible:
 - o Clean and disinfect the bathroom with products provided after each use (frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, countertops, dressers, and other surfaces).
 - o Flush the toilet with the lid down.
 - o Keep personal items (toothbrush, cups, cell phone, tablets, laptops, etc.) separate from those belonging to others.
- Clean and disinfect touched surfaces after use.
- You may encourage your student to eat in their room while sick or at a different time to the rest of the family to practice physical distancing. You must continue to provide food for breakfast, lunch, dinner to your student.
- Hosts and students should wear a mask (and may opt for gloves and face shield) and practice social distancing.

The UVic Homestay Program expects that:

- Hosts have been following all public health guidelines, and everyone in the home must be free of any COVID-19 symptoms.
- Hosts will have open and frequent conversations about expectations, rules and boundaries with their homestay student.
- Hosts will be mindful of and respect public health directives.

Additional Considerations

If a Student develops symptoms or is diagnosed with COVID-19:

- Follow provincial guidelines and seek medical attention as necessary
- Keep the student in place, in accordance with Public Health direction.