

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

Arrival information – Best Practices

For arrival at the Victoria International Airport, 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.
- 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.
- You may wish to go over what the quarantine will look like, should quarantine be required during the placement.

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

Students that test positive for COVID-19 will self isolate in their homestay. If a student or family is diagnosed with COVID-19, our protocol is to keep the student in place, in accordance with Public Health direction.

Students are no longer asked to report disclosures of individual cases of COVID-19 illness to UVic.

Students ill with COVID-19, or who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, should self-isolate, stay at home, and keep away from others to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Students required to self-isolate in homestay due to a positive COVID-19 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 (\$1095 monthly fee + \$25/night self-isolation fee).*

Should self-isolation extend past the planned departure date, or should 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 of either \$36.50* per night plus a \$25/night self-isolation fee to their homestay family or as per the hotel and meal charges incurred.

Homes where household members have tested positive for COVID-19, will not be able to receive a new homestay student until the end of the required self-isolation period.

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

****Homestay fees set to increase as of January 1, 2023 to \$1260/month or \$42/night.***

As of January 20, 2022, the BCCDC advises that self-isolation can end when:

For those with mild symptoms where testing was not recommended:

Stay home until they feel well enough to return to regular activities. Avoid non-essential high-risk settings such as long-term care facilities and individuals at higher risk for severe illness for 10 days after the start of symptoms. Mild symptoms are symptoms that can be managed at home.

For those who tested positive – fully vaccinated or less than 18 years old:

End isolation when all three of these conditions are met:

1. At least 5 days have passed since symptoms started, or from test date if the person did not have symptoms.
2. Fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen.
3. Symptoms have improved.

If the person still has symptoms they should continue to isolate for longer if they have a fever or are not feeling better. Presence of mild symptoms does not necessarily mean that the person is contagious after 5 days. It can take longer to completely recover from the illness.. If unsure or concerned, they should connect with their health care provider, call 8-1-1, or go to an Urgent and Primary Care Centre to be assessed.

For those who tested positive who are 18 years of age or older and not fully vaccinated:

If the person is an adult who tested positive and are not fully vaccinated and are managing illness at home, they can end isolation when all three of these conditions are met:

1. At least 10 days from the start of symptoms, or from the day they tested positive if they did not have symptoms.
2. Fever has resolved for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen.
3. Symptoms have improved.

If the person still has symptoms they should continue to isolate for longer if they have a fever or are not feeling better. Presence of mild symptoms does not necessarily mean that the person is contagious after 5 days. If unsure or concerned, they should connect with their health care provider, call 8-1-1, or go to an Urgent and Primary Care Centre to be assessed.

Note: Fully vaccinated means the person received both doses of a 2-dose series (e.g. AstraZeneca, Pfizer, or Moderna vaccine) or it has been more than 14 days since they received a single dose of a 1-dose series (e.g. Janssen/ Johnson and Johnson).

For those who tested negative, but who have symptoms:

Self-isolate until symptoms improve and feel well enough to return to regular activities. If fever is present, stay home until the fever is gone (without taking medicine that reduces fever).

For those who are close-contacts of an ill person:

At this stage in the pandemic, the BCCDC advises that close contacts are not required to self-isolate or take any special measures. More information about what actions close contacts should take:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation/close-contacts>

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.