UVic Homestay Program Safe Arrival Protocols and Host Expectations

Earlier this year, the University of Victoria confirmed its plans to return to on-campus classes in September. 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 homestay shall direct the student to use a COVID-19 self assessment tool, by visiting https://bc.thrive.health or calling 8-1-1, connecting with Guard.me health insurance, and seeking medical attention, if necessary.
  - 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 requirementsimplemented 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.

IMPORTANT: Students required to quarantine upon arrival by the Canada Border Services Agency are responsible for all costs/fees while at a government-authorized hotel. Students have been advised to notify their hosts immediately if their quarantine exemption has been denied and share their new travel plans. Once PCR test results come back negative and allowed to leave the hotel, students required to quarantine will need to pay an additional $350 quarantine fee for the remainder of their quarantine period directly to their host on top of the regular monthly homestay fee during the first month. For these students, the first month’s fee would be $1,300 ($950 monthly fee + $350 quarantine fee).
Subsequent months would be $950/month. *Please note that as of August 9, 2021, the 3-night hotel quarantine requirement will be eliminated for all travelers.*

**HOST EXPECTATIONS**

**Government Regulations that help keep Canadians Safe**

Before your student’s arrival in Canada, all international travelers, regardless of their vaccination status, must:

- have a Self-Isolation Plan to satisfy current Canadian government travel restrictions concerning COVID-19, which require travelers arriving in Canada to quarantine for 14 days;

- download and provide mandatory travel information on the Canadian government’s [ArriveCAN application](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/travel/services-arriving-canada/arrivecan.html) (and have daily check-ins through the app after arriving in Canada);

- test negative for COVID-19 before travelling from another country to Canada. Documentation of a negative result must be presented to the airline prior to boarding a flight to Canada. The test must be taken within 72 hours prior to the traveller’s scheduled departure to Canada;

- undergo a COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test *when they arrive in Canada and before exiting the airport.*

The Quarantine Act requires all travelers coming into Canada to self-quarantine for 14 days. As of July 6, 2021, the Government of Canada will be implementing changes to the quarantine requirements for fully vaccinated travelers to Canada. Students that meet all requirements may be exempt from having to quarantine/self-isolate after arriving. It is up to the Canadian Border Service Agent to waive or implement the quarantine requirement based on the information provided by the individual student. All students, regardless of vaccination status, must present a quarantine plan in case an officer deems them not eligible for the exemption.

As many international students may not benefit from these exemptions, given the pace of vaccine rollout or the type of vaccine used in their countries of origin, students may still be required to quarantine once they arrive in Victoria. If required to quarantine/self-isolate upon arrival, international students will need to stay in a government-approved hotel for the first three nights. The student will stay in a quarantine hotel in the city that was their point of entry into Canada (Montreal, Toronto, Calgary or Vancouver). Only once the COVID-19 test done at the airport comes back with a negative result, will the student be allowed to leave the hotel and continue on with their travels to Victoria to complete the remainder of their quarantine period in homestay. There will be additional COVID-19 tests required on the 8th day of the mandatory quarantine (kit will be provided at the airport) while in the host’s home (once completed, the test kit is mailed in). *Please note that as of August 9, 2021, the 3-night hotel quarantine requirement will be eliminated for all travelers.*

**Student Quarantine and Host Expectations**

Once the student arrives in Victoria, and only if they have been mandated to quarantine, they will need to stay in their own room for the remainder of their quarantine period (11 days) and minimize contact with others (keep a 2 metre distance/self-isolate). *Students have been advised to notify their hosts...*
immediately if their quarantine exemption has been denied. During the student’s quarantine, if required, it is expected that the homestay family will provide students with meals throughout the day, clean linens, a comfortable room and Wi-Fi details.

The guidelines, protocols and expectations outlined below have been created to help keep the student, homestay family and community safe while the student quarantines. Travel and quarantine can be a challenging and emotional time for students, so we encourage you to invest time in building a relationship and clarifying expectations with your student prior to their arrival in Victoria. Get to know each other better, and if anything, over-communicate! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the UVic Homestay Program.

The UVic Homestay Program expects that:

- Hosts have been following all public health guidelines for their area in the 14 days prior to accepting a student, and everyone in the home must be free of any COVID-19 symptoms.
- Only one healthy host should provide care for the student while they are in quarantine (pick up at airport, providing meals, showing student how to use laundry, etc.)
- 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.

Communication and Relationship Building prior to your Student’s Arrival

We encourage hosts and students to get to know each other prior to meeting in person as this will make the transition to live in quarantine and after go more smoothly. We encourage hosts to:

- Have Zoom, Skype or FaceTime meetings to get to know one another before arrival.
- Provide your student with cell phone numbers and contacts so that they can program them in their phone.
- Speak to your student about your family and what the expectations may be.
- Explain how you have been living during the COVID-19 experience.
- Ask your student about foods they like.
- Think about anything specific you want your student to bring to help them self-quarantine.
- Prepare a small welcome package with information on your family, home and provide Wi-Fi details and password.

Arrival information

Please remind your student to contact you as soon as they have cleared customs at their port-of-entry airport and notify you whether they have been exempt from quarantine or whether it has been required of them. The student will provide you with their new travel plans and flight itinerary once confirmed, if changes are needed. Please note that as of August 9, the 3-night hotel stopover requirement will be eliminated for all travellers arriving by air.

For arrival at the Victoria International Airport, please discuss how and where you will be meeting your student upon their arrival as you will not be able to enter the airport unless necessary. We encourage you to prepare a sign with their name to help you find one another. Once your student has texted that they have arrived at the Victoria International Airport (or other approved location), please let them
know where you are parked, and remind them of what your car looks like/license plate number so that you can locate one another easily.

Please:

- Plan for only one person to pick up the student.
- Stay with your vehicle and wait for your student’s message (email, WhatsApp, etc.).
- Message your student where you are parked and remind them of your license plate number.
- Hold up a sign with the student’s name by your car so that you can find one another quickly. The student has been advised to meet you at your car and also prepare a sign with your name.
- Maintain a 2 meter distance from the student at all times.
- 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

- The student will unload their own luggage out of the car and into their room.
- Please advise the student to remove their shoes prior to entering your home, and once in their room, to put their travel clothes in a plastic bag to be washed immediately and separately.
- Provide your student with a welcome package including your Wi-Fi login/password info, snacks, information about your family and neighbourhood.
- Make arrangements for a physically distanced meet or video call, once the student has had a chance to rest/unpack. You may wish to go over what the quarantine period will look like (when you can meet/video call, schedules for meals, etc).
- Provide the student with an appropriate meal(s) for them to eat in their room on the arrival day.

During Quarantine:

- Personal items will not be shared with the student, such as toothbrushes, towels, bed linen, utensils and electronic devices.
- Hosts will wear a mask (and may opt for gloves and face shield) and practice social distancing while the student is in quarantine in their home.
- Hosts will show students how to use the laundry while in quarantine. Students can be expected to do their own laundry. They should wash the clothes they wore on the flight immediately and keep their laundry separate from the family.
- Encourage the student to go outside each day (only if it is a private place like the back yard).
- Plan socially-distanced visits with your student outside if possible, or connect via apps such as FaceTime, Whatsapp, etc.
- Hosts will provide three meals a day to the student for them to eat in their room while in quarantine.

Post-Quarantine Expectations of Students and Homestay Families

- Follow government health directives.
• Continue to practice proper, recommended hygiene.
• Use proper coughing and sneezing etiquette.
• Practice physical distancing when outside of the home, avoid malls, crowded spaces and sports.
• Have open and frequent conversations about expectations, rules and boundaries as these may change.
• Keep in touch and reach out to the UVic Homestay Program with your questions and concerns.
• Over-communicate, this is a challenging time for all. Please let the UVic Homestay Program know if your student is seeking medical attention.

Additional Considerations

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

• Follow provincial guidelines and seek medical attention as necessary
• Notify the UVic Homestay Program
• Keep the student in place, in accordance with Public Health direction.