

### 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 homestay shall direct the student to use a COVID-19 self assessment tool, by visiting <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en> 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 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

### **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](#) (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;
- may be selected for mandatory randomized testing upon when they arrive in Canada and before exiting the airport.

As of July 6, 2021, the Government of Canada implemented 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 upon arrival, students are required to secure suitable accommodations to self-isolate.

Fully vaccinated travellers are not exempt from randomized arrival testing.

**Please note: Currently, fully vaccinated students (with a [Canada accepted COVID-19 vaccine](#): Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD, and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) may be exempt from quarantine upon arrival.**

**Students who are partially vaccinated, unvaccinated, or vaccinated with a different vaccine will need to quarantine upon arrival in Canada. UVic Homestay is not an option for quarantine upon arrival. Students that are required to quarantine upon arrival will need to have a [self-isolation plan](#) that includes suitable accommodation outside of homestay.**

## Arrival information

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.
- You may wish to go over what the quarantine will look like, should quarantine be required during the placement.

**FULLY VACCINATED STUDENTS: Fully vaccinated students that receive a positive randomized arrival test result/COVID-19 test result, after they have moved into their homestay home, will be required to complete their quarantine in their current homestay.**

## What if my student's randomized arrival test comes back positive, after they have moved in with us?

Student that underwent randomized arrival testing will generally be contacted within 72 hours with a result, by which point they will already be living in the homestay home. If a student should test positive,

they will be required to quarantine in their current homestay home for a period of up to 14 days from the testing date.

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*Students required to quarantine in homestay will need to pay an additional \$350 homestay quarantine fee for their quarantine period on top of the regular monthly homestay fee (\$950 monthly fee + \$350 quarantine fee).*

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### **If your student has a positive COVID-19 test result**

The guidelines, protocols and expectations outlined below have been created to help keep the student, homestay family and community safe while the student quarantines. 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!

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.

Should self-isolation extend past the planned departure date, we will try to arrange for the student to 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 \$32 per night plus a \$350 quarantine 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.

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.

During Quarantine:

- Have Zoom, Skype or FaceTime meetings with your student to check-in.
- Personal items will not be shared with the student, such as toothbrushes, towels, bed linen, utensils and electronic devices.
- Hosts and students 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 continue to provide food for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks while the student is in quarantine.
- Students must self-monitor and inform their host and/or contact HealthLink BC at 811 should their symptoms worsen.

#### 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.
- Have open and frequent conversations about expectations, rules and boundaries as these may change.
- Over-communicate, this is a challenging time for all. Please let the UVic Homestay Program know if your student is seeking medical attention.
- Keep in touch and reach out to the UVic Homestay Program with your questions and concerns.

#### **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.