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## **COVID-19 ADDENDUM TO COMMUNITY STANDARDS**

UPDATED FOR SPRING 2021 SEMESTER (*UPDATED 1/13/2021*)

As we have shared throughout the summer and into the fall, this academic year will look different due to the global pandemic. However, we know Dickinsonians are ready for the challenge of caring for each other. Time and time again we have seen you serve your community; during this time, you will serve each other. Your actions and the personal responsibility we all take within our community are more important than ever. By emphasizing safety, health, and a collective understanding of what is required from all of us, we can minimize the impacts of this new coronavirus. Together we will win against this global pandemic.

The expectations and guidelines shared in this addendum to the Community Standards describe requirements of each member of the residential community to commit to a strong regimen of personal hygiene, including frequent hand washing; cleanliness in your rooms, suites, and apartments; the wearing of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as face coverings, basically whenever you are outside of your residence; and maintain physical distancing of at least six feet where possible. The College will also support the protection of its students, staff, and faculty by providing PPE and posting signage that reinforces the expectations around personal health and safety.

This spring semester will be about considering your actions within the context of the community, your fellow students, and other faculty and staff who may be on campus. So, we will ask you to do things for the good of the community. Students living on campus will be required to have a COVID test before arriving on campus, and will be tested again when they move-in. A period of restricted movement on campus will be required for the first 10 or so days the student is on campus. All on-campus students then will be tested for COVID twice weekly. Anyone testing positive will be moved into an isolation space and close contacts will be quarantined. However, students must consider that a negative test at any time is only a snapshot in time. Students could be exposed to the virus and test positive, even hours later. We implore students to take a negative test as an opportunity to refocus on the safety practices they will put in place moving forward to protect themselves, their pod-mates, and the broader community.

We must all work together to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of our community and campus in these trying times. These expectations are one element of our ongoing plan to build and sustain a culture that makes the health and safety of others its top priority.

As a Dickinson student, you are a member of the Carlisle community. We must also protect those living around the college. We expect that you will follow all safety guidelines when you are spending time both on and off campus grounds. You represent Dickinson to those living in Carlisle, so at all times prioritize the safety and well-being of the broader Carlisle community in addition to the Dickinson community.

This document remains effective as an addendum to the Dickinson College Community Standards start January 18, 2021 until otherwise noted by the College. The College reserves the right to update and make edits to this document to be in line with the guidance that comes from local, state,

and national public health agencies as well as government officials. All updates to the document will be clearly noted with the date and posted on the College's website.

Failure to follow these policies and rules will result in a charge of the appropriate alleged violation which may include a policy violation of the Community Standards. Students may be subject to immediate interim removal from campus – at the sole discretion of the College. Interim sanctions will remain pending the outcome of any hearing or appeals process. If removed from campus, students will not receive any refund of room & board, regardless of anything stated in other policies, procedures, or agreements to the contrary.

## **COLLEGE NOTIFICATION OF COVID SYMPTOMS**

The College requires that all students - living on campus or approved commuters who will be visiting campus - notify the College immediately (no later than four hours after you notice the symptoms) if you develop symptoms associated with COVID-19.

In order to notify the proper College entities, please call the Wellness Center at (717) 245-1663 for further directions. The Wellness Center is open M-F from 8:30am-4:30pm. Outside of these hours, contact the Department of Public Safety who will put you in touch with the Student Life on Call staff member.

Student living on campus who are symptomatic will be asked to be tested at the Wellness Center and isolate (in housing provided by the College) as soon as possible (see *Isolation* below). Students who are tested off-campus will receive follow up contact from Wellness Center staff.

Wellness Center staff will begin our campus exposure management process by asking the student for a list of close contacts, following current guidelines for contact tracing. Close contacts currently consist of the following:

- Individuals with whom they were within six feet for a cumulative of 15 or more minutes within a 24-hour period within the 48 hours prior to symptom onset, regardless of whether face coverings were being worn.
- Close contact also includes being directly exposed to respiratory secretions (e.g., cough or sneeze).

When a student is tested at the Wellness Center, staff will obtain consent from the student to share appropriate medical information with Residence Life & Housing staff and other relevant College personnel (e.g., athletic trainers) - as well as family members, if requested.

After the College has learned that a student has tested positive for COVID-19, the Pennsylvania Department of Health will be notified to begin their contact tracing to determine if there was exposure to other members of our community so that the College can take appropriate next steps to mitigate further spread of the virus.

## **HEALTH MONITORING/REPORTING**

All students on campus will be required to self-monitor their health and report whether they are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or have had potential exposures to the College by logging into <https://dickinson.medicatconnect.com/> on a daily basis. The information provided will not be considered part of students' confidential medical records at the Wellness Center, but it will only be accessible to specific college personnel. When asked, students must accurately and honestly report symptoms or risk factors for COVID-19. Students who feel ill or have a fever should not interact with others and must contact the Wellness Center (Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm) or the Department of Public Safety for further instruction.

According to the CDC, people with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. Please refer to the [CDC](#) for a more updated list as new symptoms continue to be determined.

Students must also to download the [COVID Alert PA](#) app on their phone and opt into the exposure notification. This will help with contact tracing, and especially alert you to possible exposures on and off campus.

## **HOUSEHOLDS OR PODS**

Students will live in apartments, houses, in rooms on floors of residence halls, or in rooms on wings of floors within residence halls with other students in what is referred to as a “household” or “pod”. Moving forward in this document we will use the word “pod”. Students within a pod typically share bathrooms and common space. Students living together in pods are much like a household or family. There will be opportunities to interact with more freedoms within pods, and students must consider their actions outside of their residential space in ways that protect their pod. Much like families leave the home to go to work or school and return home each day – pods must respect the freedoms allowed by making good decisions remembering they always will come home to their pod each day and are accountable for the health and safety of their pod. Also like

families, students would quarantine together in their pod if one of their pod-mates were to be relocated due to testing positive for COVID-19.

## **“STAY AT HOME” (INITIAL REQUIREMENT UPON ARRIVAL)**

Students arriving to campus for the spring semester, students who have lived on campus and are relocating to a new space, and/or students who will be living with new roommates, will be asked to restrict their movement or “stay at home” for a period of time after arrival. This is in response to the Governor’s recommendation that those who travel from certain states need to stay at home.

Student arriving for a January 25 start on campus start will have to “stay at home” through the morning of Monday, February 1, students arriving for a February 8 start on campus (and students who have new members joining their pod) will have to “stay at home” through the morning of Monday, February 15 (after having a negative COVID-19 test on the previous Thursday or Friday), and student arriving for the second half (and students who have new members joining their pod) will “stay at home” through the morning of Monday, March 29 (after having a negative COVID-19 test on the previous Thursday or Friday).

Dickinson’s “Stay at Home” for residential students means the following:

- Students will be able to remain on campus and within their pods,
- Students will be able to attend to tasks on campus (i.e., picking up food, picking up your books, picking up mail and packages, etc.), attend in-person medical appointments, attend in-person classes (held at the faculty member’s discretion).
- Students may spend time outdoors while on campus as long as safety guidelines are followed, which include wearing a face covering if they are within six feet from individuals with whom they do not reside (i.e., members of their pod).

If students require additional necessities from off campus (e.g., groceries and/or over-the-counter health supplies/medication) during the stay at home period, they can purchase these online from local stores and the college can arrange to have them picked up and delivered via the [safety shuttle](#) at predetermined times.

## **ISOLATION (FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE ILL)**

Residence Life & Housing staff will provide students who have tested positive for COVID-19 and symptomatic students being tested by the Wellness Center with an isolation housing assignment.

- Residence Life & Housing staff will drop off a key and a wagon outside of the student’s apartment to allow the student to move themselves.
- Students should take only what they will need for 10-14 days, including any clothing, bedding, medication, toiletries, a thermometer, cooking utensils, dishes, groceries, etc.
- Students will be provided with written instructions from the Wellness Center about isolating, including information about contacting Residence life & Housing staff if they require meals delivered, time sensitive items in the mail room picked up, or a small bag of clothing laundered.

- Any student who requires assistance while in isolation can be in touch with the Residence Life staff member who provided their isolation assignment.
- Local students who prefer to transport themselves to an off-campus location to isolate (or have a family member willing to provide transportation) will be allowed to do so, although this may not be advisable if they do not have adequate access to food, medication, and other essential items, and/or if they would be living with individuals who are susceptible to COVID-19. Students who choose to return home will be provided with interim isolation housing if they cannot leave campus immediately.

## **QUARANTINE (FOR STUDENTS POTENTIALLY EXPOSED TO COVID-19)**

Wellness Center staff will contact all students who are identified as close contacts of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 (including others in their pod) to inform them of the exposure to a positive case of COVID-19, arrange for testing at the Wellness Center as needed, and connect them with relevant College personnel to arrange for quarantine. The identity of the student who has tested positive will not be disclosed to close contacts.

- Pod members will be allowed to quarantine together but would still need to remain in their residential space, not go to class or the dining areas, and physically distance from each other as much as possible.
- If pod members quarantine together and any of these pod members tests positive, time spent in quarantine may be prolonged if physical distancing cannot be maintained and/or if bedrooms are shared. Please refer to the CDC guidance on quarantine for details: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>
- Other close contacts (not within the pod) will be relocated to quarantine housing, in a space with their own bedroom and a private bathroom (a shared bathroom is only acceptable if those sharing the bathroom have a similar level of exposure to the student who has tested positive, as is the case with pod members).
- Students will be provided with instructions from the Wellness Center about quarantining and Residence Life & Housing staff will assist students in quarantine in a manner like those in isolation, as indicated above.

## **RETURN TO HOUSING ASSIGNMENT POST-QUARANTINE OR ISOLATION**

Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 (or who has not been tested) should remain in isolation until all the following criteria have been met and the Department of Health has instructed the student to discontinue isolation:

- It has been at least 24 hours since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications
- There has been improvement in other symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared (20 days for individuals with severe/critical illness or who are severely immunocompromised).
- If the student tests positive but remains asymptomatic, the student should remain in isolation until it has been 10 days since the positive test result.

- Please note that these criteria may change over time and the most up to date guidelines can be found on the CDC's website.

Any student in quarantine who has not tested positive and remains asymptomatic should discontinue quarantine after 10 days since their close contact with the person who tested positive and/or the Department of Health has instructed the student to discontinue quarantine.

- Per CDC and PA Department of Health recommendations, quarantine can end after day 7 if a diagnostic specimen (e.g., RT-PCR, antigen) tests negative and is collected on day 5 or thereafter, and the person remains asymptomatic. Depending on the Wellness Center's ability to provide testing with a short turnaround time for results on day 5 or later, this option may be offered to students in quarantine.
- Although recommendations for the duration of quarantine have been reduced from 14 to 10 days (or in some cases, 7), students should continue to closely monitor their symptoms for 14 days and contact the Wellness Center if they develop symptoms.

## **FACE COVERINGS**

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid potential exposures. You will be expected to wear a face covering when in shared spaces on campus and/or within six feet of others. This combined with other recommended practices such as physical distancing, frequent handwashing, health-monitoring and good hygiene practices (e.g., cover coughs and sneezes, clean frequently touched surfaces, etc.), help to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

All individuals are required to wear a face covering to comply with CDC recommendations and Pennsylvania Department of Health requirements. Respiratory droplets are currently understood to be a primary agent of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) spread. Current guidance suggests that, when within six feet of others, complete and continuous covering of both your nose and mouth with a breathable cloth barrier helps reduce the spread of these respiratory droplets. As a result, the college will provide a reusable cloth mask to all students, faculty and staff to aid in this endeavor. Those on campus may also wear their own face covering; however, it must comply with the following:

All face coverings must:

- be made with at least two layers of breathable material
- fully cover the nose and mouth and secure fully under the chin
- fit snugly but comfortably around the side of the face
- and be secured with ties or ear loops, allowing one to remain hands-free.

Please note, due to current CDC recommendations and limited supplies, N95 masks should be reserved for healthcare workers and other first responders. Additionally, N95 masks will only be provided to individuals that meet certain criteria based on:

- task(s) performed

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- work assignment or academic coursework
  - or likelihood of contact.

KN95 masks, while currently more abundant on the open market, will be made available as an alternative to N95s only to those who meet the criteria listed above due to requirements associated with their use and varying effectiveness.

In addition to face coverings, some faculty and staff will be provided face shields. Face shields will also be made available for some students as necessitated for certain courses. Face shields will additionally be made available for sale through the college bookstore.

## **PHYSICAL DISTANCING**

Physical distancing is designed to limit the spread of a disease by reducing the opportunities for close contact between people. It is asked that everyone does their best to maintain a safe physical distance of six feet or more in all settings.

We recognize that maintaining six feet of physical distancing may not be possible in all unforeseen and informal situations but ask that all students make every effort to abide by this expectation. For everyone's health and safety, face coverings will also be utilized (see above for more information) to supplement physical distancing.

## **VISITORS**

To mitigate the possible spread of the virus, we are limiting visits during this time. A visitor is anyone who is not approved to live on campus, an approved commuter, or faculty/staff with approval from their supervisors.

- Visitors to campus will be prohibited from entering any residential facility and are encouraged to remain outdoors whenever possible (the only exception to this is limited to move-in and move-out, where a student may have one helper assist with physically moving belongings. Anyone who arrives on campus to drop their student off must be screened by Residence Life & Housing prior to entering any residential facility. And, the time spent by the one helper in the residential facility should be limited to the act of moving belongings).
- Visitors must wear face coverings while on campus and practice physical distancing.
- All visitors must be registered online. [COVID Health and Safety: Daytime Visitor Registration Form](#). It will be the responsibility of the student, office or department to register their visitor before or once they arrive to campus.
- A visitor to campus will be asked to inform the College if they exhibit symptoms of illness within 14 days of the visit. If a student learns one of their visitors is experiencing symptoms during this window, they should contact Residence Life & Housing at (717)245-1556.
- Visitors are not allowed to stay overnight on campus.

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- Students who are not living on campus or approved commuters cannot come to campus for in-person classes, meet professors, participate in activities like clubs or team practices, attend campus events or meetings, or to visit friends, as they are not participating in our testing protocols.

## **GUESTS**

To mitigate the possible spread of the virus, we are limiting guests in residential facilities during this time. A guest is anyone who is an approved member of the residential community or an approved commuter, but they are not assigned to live in the residential space they are visiting.

- On campus students will not be permitted to have guests in their residential space while the student or their guest are under restricted movement/“stay at home”. After the restricted movement/stay at home period ends for the student and their guest, residential students can have guests visit them in their residential space. Each resident can have one guest at any given time, so the maximum number of people in any residential facility can be double the space occupancy. Guests and residents are expected to wear face coverings during this time as physical distancing may not be possible.
- All students will be required to complete a roommate agreement to determine their own expectations for guests within their residential space.
- Students who are not approved to live on campus are not current members of the residential community and cannot be guests in residential facilities.

## **COMMON SPACES**

Congregating in indoor communal areas of campus in groups is prohibited in any spaces that cannot allow for six feet physical distancing. The only exception to this is students in the same pod using common space together, with no one from outside their pod. Face covering is still required in these circumstances within pods. Anytime members of other pods are present in communal areas of campus, physical distancing must be maintained, and face covering must be worn.

This includes, but is not limited to apartments, residence halls including common kitchens or main lounges, the HUB, the Kline Center, etc. All students who are congregating in a communal space must wear a face covering and maintain six feet of physical distance, per the policy. Students can remove their face covering to eat in the Dining Hall or in common spaces with only members of their pod present.

You may find furniture removed in common spaces and appliances disabled to discourage congregating in certain areas.

## **SOCIAL SPACES**

After the “stay at home” period, students will be able to socialize with the people they live with plus one guest per resident in their residential space (max number would be double the



room/suite/apartment occupancy). Students wanting to gather outside of their own residential space may do so outside, in common spaces on campus where distancing can be maintained (see common spaces), or through reserving space through CASE. There will be limits on the number of people allowed in campus rooms, as determined by the ability to maintain physical distancing.

Students need to consider risk when seeking to socialize with others. Interacting with others while practicing harm reduction strategies can be helpful to maintain and build connections and prevent isolation. Harm reduction strategies include (taken from [Harvard Health blog](#)):

- Understand the rates of virus transmission in [Carlisle and Cumberland County](#);
- Consider vulnerability to the virus;
- Evaluate the risk of the activity, which includes its duration and setting.

Per the Community Standards, drinking games and binge drinking paraphernalia are not permitted at any time. Given what we know about COVID-19, students found participating in drinking games or using binge drinking paraphernalia will be viewed as especially egregious now given the ease of contamination via this manner of alcohol consumption.

## **TRAVEL**

Travel for students living on campus is prohibited, and you must continue to practice all necessary health and safety behaviors while off-campus. If you require essential travel, please follow the guidelines developed by the [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#). Any travel outside of a 50-mile radius of campus while on campus, must be reported to Residence Life & Housing. You can send an email to [reslife@dickinson.edu](mailto:reslife@dickinson.edu) to report your travel. Students who travel outside of the 50-mile radius may be required to quarantine upon their return to campus. Students should not travel outside PA within their last two weeks on campus. Students should not travel via mass transit, once they have arrived on campus. It is important to continue to be thoughtful about how your travel and activity can create a risk to those in your pod.

If a student is approved to be on campus for the full semester or is approved to stay on campus through the exam period, travel is prohibited during spring break or in your last two weeks on campus.

## **ENFORCEMENT**

All Dickinson students, faculty, and staff reserve the right to kindly ask or remind each other to follow expectations outlined in this Addendum to the Community Standards and the [Campus Community Compact](#). The enforcement of this system will be peer accountability. [This form](#) allows students to share when they see concerning behavior in violation of these documents. Students will need to hold each other accountable, much like an honor system. You are expected to not only follow the expectation established in these documents but also report when you are concerned that peers may be putting the community at risk.