COVID QUICK GUIDE for STUDENTS – FALL 2023

Updated August 25, 2023

BIG PICTURE:

- COVID is still with us! Cases, hospitalizations, and wastewater measurements have risen over the summer. We expect cases as students return to campus.
- Individuals with symptoms (especially congestion, sore throat, cough, headache—no matter how mild) are expected to MASK, ISOLATE, and TEST.
- University policies continue to be updated on the COVID website.

SYMPTOMS AND TESTING

- Rapid antigen tests are the test of choice at Yale.
  - Tests are available at all of the residential colleges and in other designated locations, and are free to students and employees on presentation of Yale ID.
  - Tests may be purchased at the Yale Health pharmacy for about half retail cost (currently $5).
- Symptomatic students who test negative on a first test must remain masked and test again in 48 hours.
- Do not attend class or work while symptomatic unless you have at least 2 negative tests.

IF YOU TEST POSITIVE

- **Report your case to the university.** This will trigger important email guidance for you and your suitemates. An isolation kit will be provided by your college for those living on campus. Isolation guidance is also located here.
- **Notify your close contacts** following instructions that you will receive by email. This is your responsibility.
- Mask and isolate in your room for 5 full days (7 days for healthcare students). After leaving isolation, you must remain masked for a full 10 days. (Two negative tests 48 hours apart starting on day 6 will allow you to remove your mask by day 8.)
- Notify your Health and Safety Leader (HSL) or dean who can help with academic accommodations.
- Contact Student Health 203-432-0312 if you have an underlying weakened immune system or are experiencing severe symptoms (such as high fever, shortness of breath, vomiting) for consideration of treatment.

IF YOU ARE A CLOSE CONTACT

- Test when notified, if possible, but **always by day 5** after your last exposure to an infected person.
- Isolate and test if you develop symptoms at any time.
- Wear a mask when around others for 10 days following your last exposure.
COVID PREVENTION

- **Masking** works. Masks are recommended for those with a weakened immune system, in crowds, in poorly ventilated places and for close contacts. Masks may be obtained at your school or residential college.

VACCINES

- An updated COVID vaccine will be available by early October which will provide protection against the currently circulating XBB and related variants. **All students are strongly encouraged (but not required) to be vaccinated when vaccine becomes available.**
- Vaccine reduces (but does not eliminate) the risk of infection, reduces the severity of infection for those who may become infected, and reduces the risk of transmission to vulnerable others.
- Vaccination also reduces the risk of long COVID.
- Vaccine may be scheduled through Yale Health. Additional information will be available soon.

QUESTIONS?

Call **Campus COVID Resource Line (CCRL)** 203-432-6604 OR email [yalecampushealth@yale.edu](mailto:yalecampushealth@yale.edu)

[covid19.yale.edu](http://covid19.yale.edu)