Frequently Asked Questions: Self-Isolation in Victoria University Residences

Over the coming months there may be times when one or more students in residence will have to self-isolate. The following FAQs have been developed to address questions staff and students may have. The University of Toronto (including Environmental Health and Safety [EHS]) and Victoria University are guided by Public Health directives. Procedures may evolve and change.

1. **When must a student self-isolate?**

   Self-Isolation may be recommended by EHS for various reasons including:

   a) An asymptomatic student has come into close contact with someone who has symptoms but has not yet been tested or is awaiting test results.
   b) Public health authorities have directed a student to self-isolate because of a potential exposure.
   c) A student is experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms (e.g., headache, cough, fever, runny nose, shortness of breath) and have not been tested or is awaiting test results.
   d) A student has a confirmed case of COVID-19.

2. **Will there be signage indicating the location of a self-isolating student?**

   Signs will be posted on any residence rooms or washrooms being used for self-isolation.

3. **Where will a student self-isolate?**

   Self-Isolation plans vary depending on the situation, in accordance with EHS recommendations.

   A. **A student who has symptoms and has not been tested or is awaiting results, or who has been in close contact of an unconfirmed case.**

   A student in this situation must self-isolate in a private room with a dedicated washroom. In some circumstances and when recommended by
EHS, a student may need to move and self-isolate in a single room with an en-suite washroom. In some cases, a student may be able to self-isolate in their regularly assigned room with a dedicated washroom in proximity. Any student self-isolating in a room with a nearby washroom must wear a mask and gloves when leaving their room to use the washroom facilities.

B. **A student who has been told to self-isolate due to close contact with a confirmed case or has tested positive for COVID-19.**

Each case is assessed individually by EHS. In some cases, a student’s regularly assigned room has a dedicated en-suite washroom, and the student can stay in place. In all other cases, the student will be moved to a suitable room on or off campus, as directed by EHS.

4. **What happens if a self-isolating student needs to leave their room?**

If at any time a student in self-isolation must leave their private room (for example, to go to a medical appointment) the student must wear a mask and gloves.

5. **Will staff members come into close contact with self-isolating students?**

With current self-isolating procedures and precautions, coupled with physical distancing and mandatory mask-wearing for students and staff, there should be no occasion when a staff member comes into close contact with a student, including those in self-isolation.

6. **What should a staff member do if they are worried that they may have been in close contact with a student who is in self-isolation?**

In cases where a staff member is unsure or concerned about whether or not they have come into close contact with a student, they should contact their supervisor who will consult with HR.

Each situation is then assessed by EHS who will identify individuals who have been exposed and need to be contacted.
7. **How are students in self-isolation supported?**

All students in self-isolation are in communication with staff in the Office of the Dean of Students. The Dean's Office informs EHS of every self-isolating case. EHS provides direction on a case-by-case basis.

All students in self-isolation receive meal delivery.

U of T Health and Wellness will conduct daily symptom and wellbeing checks of students in self-isolation, will monitor their infection status, and will provide them emotional support.

8. **When does a student leave self-isolation?**

EHS will inform the Office of the Dean of Students and each individual self-isolating student when the student no longer needs to self-isolate.