

Quarantine and Isolation Policy

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to describe the procedures for students who must quarantine or isolate due to certain infectious diseases during a regular semester.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to all students attending classes in person.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Close Contact:** A person who is in contact with someone who has been infected with a virus, as determined by contact tracing.
- B. **Contact Tracing:** A public health tool that is used to identify people who have recently been in contact with someone diagnosed with a communicable disease. Once a person tests positive for a disease, they will be asked to list the people they have been in contact with and the places they visited while contagious. Health officials contact these individuals without identifying the person with whom they came into contact. Contact tracing is essential in controlling outbreaks of infectious diseases.
- C. **Quarantine:** Quarantine is used to separate people who MAY have been exposed to an infectious disease to see if they become sick. They are usually asked to stay home or at another location to prevent the possible spread of a communicable disease. The length of time for quarantine is determined by health officials depending on the nature of the disease.
- D. **Isolation:** The separation of sick people with a contagious disease from those who are not sick. Individuals who may potentially be infectious without yet having tested positive for the disease can also be placed in isolation. Ultimately, the goal is to prevent the spread of communicable disease. The length of time for isolation is determined by current CDC guidelines and varies based on the infection present.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

For undergraduate students, the Student Health Center (SHC) notifies the associate provost for undergraduate studies that a student is in quarantine or isolation and cannot attend class in person. The associate provost for undergraduate studies notifies the instructor, with little details: Students will not return to class until [date].

For graduate students, the SHC notifies the associate provost for curriculum that a student is in quarantine or isolation and cannot attend class in person. The associate provost for curriculum notifies the instructor, with little details: Students will not return to class until [date].

Students are not required to provide formal documentation to their faculty from a health care provider. Students are required to follow the process outlined below.

V. PROCESS

Students who test positive for an infectious disease should:

1. Indicate their status on the [Report an Illness website](#) or by contacting the Student Health Center.
2. Notify their instructor and advisor that they will not attend class face-to-face as soon as possible, ideally before the first day they miss class.
3. Inform their instructor of their anticipated return date to class based on the periods of quarantine and isolation set forth in this policy.
4. Discuss with the instructor how they will be keeping up with coursework during the length of their quarantine or isolation. As Goucher College is a residential institution, virtual attendance is not considered a reasonable accommodation.
5. Keep up with all coursework and reading, including submitting assignments.
6. Communicate any changes to their status to their instructor and advisor as soon as possible.

If a student becomes sick with any illness and, as a result, is unable to complete course work, they must make use of the [Academic Notification Request](#).

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Sample email to professor & advisor from students informing them of upcoming absences due to quarantine or isolation:

Subject: Absence from [insert course name] Starting [insert date]

Dear Professor and Advisor [Insert names],

I am writing to share with you that I will not attend [insert course name] in-person starting [insert date of first class-meeting]. I understand that while I cannot attend class in person, I must keep up with all coursework and assignments. I would like to make a virtual appointment with you at your earliest convenience to discuss how to continue my work.

I anticipate returning to the physical classroom on [insert date of the first class meeting per SHC instruction]. If this plan changes, I will notify you as soon as possible before that date.

The Student Health Center has informed the associate provost of this situation who, in turn, will notify you.

Sincerely,

[Insert your name]

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VI. RESOURCES/FAQ

[Attendance Policy](#)

Infectious Disease Policy

[Policy for Student/Parent/Guardian Engagement in Academic Affairs](#)

[Return to Campus](#) website

[Student Health Center](#) website

VII. RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL

The official overseeing this policy is the [Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies](#). Van Meter G25, 410.337.6210

VIII. HISTORY

Created June 2021; Updated January 2022, August 2022, February 2024.