

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION UNIV University Administration	POLICY NUMBER UNIV 3.03
POLICY TITLE Quarantine and Isolation of Students, Faculty, and Staff	
SCOPE OF POLICY University System	DATE OF REVISION July 30, 2020
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER President	ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE Office of the President

PURPOSE

This document outlines the University of South Carolina's policy to quarantine or isolate students, faculty, and staff during a communicable disease outbreak.

DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

Close contact: This is a set of criteria that will be set by public health authorities to define those individuals and behaviors that generate a risk of transmission.

Communicable disease: An illness caused by an infectious agent or its toxins that occurs through the direct or indirect transmission of the infectious agent or its products from an infected individual or via an animal, vector, or the inanimate environment to a susceptible animal or human host.

Isolation: An act that separates sick people with a quarantinable communicable disease from people who are not sick.

Mandatory quarantine/isolation: In some communicable disease outbreaks, state and/or federal health agencies will mandate quarantine or isolation based on specific criteria.

Person Under Investigation (PUI): Any person who meets criteria set by a public health agency for formal investigation of a communicable disease.

Quarantine: An act that separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a communicable disease to see if they become sick.

Student: A person who is currently enrolled at the university, or who is accepted for admission or readmission to the university, or who has been enrolled at the university in a prior semester or summer session and is eligible to continue enrollment in the semester or summer session that immediately follows, or who is attending an educational program sponsored by the university while that person is on campus, or who engaged in prohibited conduct at a time when the individual met the above criteria. Individuals who are not currently enrolled at the university remain subject to the disciplinary process for conduct that occurred while they were enrolled.

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Voluntary quarantine/isolation: In some communicable disease outbreaks, state and/or federal health agencies will strongly recommend quarantine or isolation based on specific criteria. In these cases, the university may still attach requirements to these recommendations for the health and safety of the campus community.

POLICY STATEMENT

During a communicable disease outbreak, any institution of the University of South Carolina system can request and/or require students, faculty, and staff to quarantine or isolate off campus, with the only exceptions identified in Procedures below. It is essential that students, faculty and staff comply with these directives to protect the health and well-being of the University of South Carolina community in keeping with the tenets of the Carolinian Creed.

The duration of quarantine or isolation will vary depending on the outbreak or pandemic itself. The University of South Carolina will make determinations of quarantines and/or isolation declarations based on criteria set by World Health Organization (WHO), U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC), or other expert opinion. Quarantined and/or isolation may be required of both individuals infected and those who have a specific risk related to the communicable disease. These risks include but are not limited to close contact with an infected person or a person under investigation (PUI) or travel to areas with widespread transmission.

PROCEDURES

- A. The Emergency Management Team(s) for the institution(s) impacted will be partially or fully activated to address the potential outbreak situation.
- B. Quarantine and/or isolation guidelines will be developed based on public health agencies or expert guidelines.
- C. Quarantine and/or isolation criteria will be publicized to the campus community through official university communication channels.
- D. Faculty and staff who fall under isolation or quarantine criteria must do so off-campus at their private residence or other safe place, unless the university provides their housing. For those housed on campus, they must quarantine or isolate in place without contacting other individuals or spaces on campus.
- E. Students who must quarantine or isolate must do so at an off-campus residence and/or their permanent residence unless there is no other safe location. Depending on availability, on-campus quarantine or isolation spaces may be offered. For students who are approved to isolate or quarantine on campus, they must follow the directive of officials regarding their movement outside the space.

F. Failure to comply with directives will have consequences. In most case, SC DHEC can issue a public health order to those not in compliance with a mandated isolation or quarantine. Failure to comply can also be addressed through the student conduct process or personnel discipline procedures.

G. Additional Guidance

Additional guidance specific to a disease outbreak may be provided as an appendix to this document.

RELATED UNIVERSITY, STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES

[State Human Resources Regulations 19-712.01, 19-716.02](#)

[UNIV 3.00 Emergency Management Team for Columbia](#) and related policies at other institutions

[STAF 6.26 Student Code of Conduct for Columbia](#) and related policies at other institutions

HISTORY OF REVISIONS

DATE OF REVISION	REASON FOR REVISION
April 13, 2020	New Policy
July 30, 2020	Insertion of outbreak-specific appendix

Appendix

Quarantined/Isolated faculty, staff, and students should adhere to the following guidelines:

1. You must stay home or in your residence hall room and separate yourself from others for at least 14 days.
2. Do not go to school, work, public areas, large gatherings, parties, sporting events, etc.
3. Do not go out to restaurants or have guests over to your home or residence hall.
4. Do not use public transportation, ridesharing, or taxis (including Uber, Lyft, etc.).
5. Postpone all travel.
6. Postpone all nonessential medical appointments (for example, dental cleaning, eye exam, and routine check-up) until you are out of quarantine/isolation. If you have an essential appointment during the quarantine/isolation, notify your healthcare provider before going to the appointment. They may have specific instructions for you.
7. If you are on campus, you may not leave your residence hall room—even if you are well and not showing symptoms. Necessary items like food, medicine, etc. will be brought to you. However, it is recommended that students who are ordered to quarantine/isolate should return home if possible. It is not recommended that an individual travel via public transportation to return home.
8. If you are off campus, you should not leave your home unless absolutely necessary, such as to go to an essential medical appointment. If possible, have items like food and medicine delivered to you.
9. Testing for COVID-19 during the time of quarantine even if tested negative, does not allow an individual to leave quarantine prior to the 14 days.
10. An order of quarantine/isolation can be enforced through public health authorities and through the office of Student Conduct.
11. Minimize contact with people and animals in your room/house (stay in your own room and, if possible, use your own bathroom). Avoid sharing personal household items such as dishes, towels, and bedding.
12. You will be asked to clean and disinfect your room and restroom to limit the number of people who is in contact with your items and personal space.
13. Individuals that must share a restroom, should always wipe down common areas prior to use.
14. If necessary, to leave your room, you must wear a face covering or face mask at all times unless you have a medical reason that prohibits you from wearing the mask safely.