



Pandemic Response Plan
VIU Student Residences

Student Residence Procedures

Because of the close quarters, the social interaction and at times the unintentional contact with potentially infected persons, it is recognized that the Vancouver Island University Student Residences are at a particularly higher risk for infection of numerous types of viruses including pandemic influenza. As such, special procedures are being adopted for students in residence, specifically:

Education and Communication

The responsibility to provide education, communication and counsel to students in residence is that of the Residence Manager, the Assistant Manager and their staff.

1. Each student living in residence will be educated in and will receive written instructions on proper infection control including understanding the health effects of ILI, transmission, proper self care (personal hygiene, social distancing and self-isolation) and maintaining a sufficient supply of food and fluids in their suites.
2. Information using media such as posters strategically placed within the residence building will effectively communicate to residents the messages of proper self care, taking responsibility for their individual health and wellbeing and preventing the spread of disease.
3. RAs and Residence staff will continuously discuss with residents the issue of pandemic influenza and the need to maintain strict infection control procedures within the individual units/suites and in common areas within the facility.

Reporting and Surveillance

Students in residence are encouraged to monitor their health daily for influenza-like illness (ILI) symptoms and to report their illness to the staff at the Cedar Activity Center, or their RA, using the following procedure:

1. Contact the Front Desk Staff at (250) 754-6338 to report illness.

It is the responsibility of students who are ill and will miss classes due to the flu, to contact each of their instructors as per the guidelines above

2. WSH Staff and the RAs will check on and monitor the general wellness of the students living in residence and will report their findings to the Health and Safety Office at VIU. WSH staff will monitor the general health and well being of students living in residence and provide guidance on appropriate steps to take if a student is not feeling well.
3. A log (record) of reported illnesses will be maintained in strict confidence by the WSH Staff. WSH Management will update the VIU Health and Safety Office on the current ILI status on a regular basis.
4. The Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) will be notified by VIU in the event of a significant outbreak of ILI in residence.

5. Students reporting to be ill shall be advised of the need to self-isolate and arrangements made for food and fluid delivery (see Isolation section below).
6. Students whose bathroom mates are ill will be counseled on proper infection control procedures and advised to self-monitor their health more closely and to report any onset of ILI immediately.

Infection Control, Isolation, Treatment and Care

- Hand soap dispensers and hand washing instructions have been installed in each common area of the buildings.
- Students who become ill with ILI are encouraged to self-isolate until their symptoms resolve and they are feeling well and able to fully participate in all normal day to day school activities. **They should not return to work or school until 24 hours have passed with no fever (without the use of fever reducing medications).**
- Students with ILI are required to report their illness to the Front Desk Staff at (250) 754-6338.
- While ill and isolated, students will be advised to stay in their respective sleeping units and enter common spaces only to retrieve food.
- Students whose bathroom mates are ill with ILI, will be counseled on proper infection control measures and advised to self monitor their health more closely, and report any ILI immediately.
- Students who are ill will be informed by residence staff to clean all hard surfaces (table tops, counter tops, toilets, sinks and faucets etc) in their room daily, with sanitizing wipes provided, to minimize the possibility of virus transfer and contamination.
- Students in isolation can purchase “care packages,” consisting of two days worth of food items, online from the VIU Bookstore at viubookstore or by phone (250) 740-6200. For an immediate need of food or liquids, ill students can contact the Front Desk at (250) 754-6338.
- Students can purchase sanitizing wipes and hand sanitizer at the front desk of the Cedar Activity Center.
- Residence staff delivering care packages, or other items, to ill students, will as a precaution wear a mask and gloves when delivering items. Regular hand washing is required before and after the gloves and masks are put on and removed.
- Gloves and masks are to be disposed of immediately in the regular waste receptacles.