PURPOSE

The following document outlines uOttawa’s COVID-19 Residence Response Plan in the case of a presumptive or positive diagnosis of COVID-19 for a student living in residence that requires the student to self-isolate and follow Ottawa Public Health directives.

DEFINITIONS

Self-Isolation: the requirement to stay at home (in this case in residence) and monitor for symptoms, even if mild, for 14 days or until the symptoms are gone for 24 hours, whichever is longer. The affected resident and all roommates (in suite or apartment-style units) or floormates (traditional-style residences) are required to self-isolate and avoid contact with other people to help prevent the spread of disease by remaining in a self-isolation unit. No one is permitted in the unit, except in the case of an emergency.

Emergency: an emergency situation that requires a resident who is self-isolating to leave their unit. This includes any incident that requires immediate evacuation and an emergency response by Protection Services and/or first responders. An emergency that requires a University employee or approved third party provider to access the unit includes any incident requiring an immediate emergency response, such as an emergency medical call, or an urgent facility-related incident that cannot wait until the self-isolation period has ended, such as water infiltration.

Residence Details

Following public health guidelines, all students who will be living in residence units this fall will have low bed/bath ratios (2:1) that allow for physical distancing. Students considered presumptive or positive COVID-19 cases will be moved to self-isolation units in a designated residence unless they live alone in a self-contained unit with a private bathroom (no roommates).

PROTOCOLS

1.0 Reporting Protocol

TRAVEL – A student living in residence who has travelled outside of Canada is required to self-isolate for 14 days. The student must contact Reception at 613-562-5885 before returning to residence. The student will be placed in a self-isolation unit and cannot return to their assigned residence room until the 14-day quarantine period is completed. The cost for quarantining is in addition to the residence room fees.

SYMPTOMS – A student living in residence who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, or who has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, must complete the self-assessment tool
and where possible, go to an Assessment Centre to be tested for COVID-19. If they are directed to self-isolate, they must contact reception at 613-562-5885 immediately in order to begin self-isolation.

Residents with a presumptive or positive case of COVID-19 will be asked to:
- Confirm whether they have recently travelled outside of Canada, or
- Confirm whether they have been directed to self-isolate by a medical professional, or
- Confirm whether they were exposed to COVID-19 or are experiencing symptoms. If this is the case, they will be directed to complete the online assessment tool (https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/) and where possible, they will be directed to go to an Assessment Centre to be tested for COVID-19.

2.0 Self-Isolation Protocol

Should a resident have a presumptive or confirmed case of COVID-19, they will be moved to a self-isolation unit in the designated quarantine residence with the assistance of Housing Service unless they live alone in a self-contained unit with access to a private bathroom (no roommates).

All roommates (apartment or suite-style residences) or floormates (traditional-style residences) of students with a presumptive or positive case of COVID-19 must also self-isolate and they will be moved into self-isolation units in the quarantine building during the self-isolation period.

No other residents, guests, or staff members are to enter self-isolation units during the self-isolation period except in the case of an emergency.

The residents in self-isolation are not permitted to exit their unit except in the case of an emergency.

The residents in self-isolation units will be provided with masks and gloves as well as a cleaning kit, garbage bags, and instructions on what to do in case of a fire alarm.

The residents in self-isolation will be provided with three meals per day delivered to their unit during the self-isolation period by the Food Provider. The meals will be left outside their unit at 10 a.m. daily.

Waste removal will occur twice per week (Mondays and Fridays from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.) by the Cleaning Provider. The residents are to place their waste in plastic bags outside their unit door prior to 1 p.m. for removal on the waste removal days.

Housing Service will contact the residents in self-isolation by email every couple of days to inquire about their wellbeing and to update them on any changes to public health guidelines. Residents are required to reply to these email check-ins.

Community Advisors or Peer Supports will check in on their residents by email or video every couple of days to inquire about their wellbeing and invite them to participate in any virtual programming occurring during their self-isolation period.

Once the self-isolation period is complete (a period of 14 days or until the symptoms are gone for 24 hours, whichever is longer), Housing Service will contact the student(s) to confirm that the isolation period is complete. Students will be able to move back into their assigned residence room once they have received confirmation that the self-isolation period is complete.
Students in self-isolation will still be responsible for washing their own dishes and doing their own laundry. If there are no laundry machines in the unit, the students will receive laundry detergent so they can wash their laundry by hand.

3.0 Cleaning Protocol

Students will clean their own units while in self-isolation. They will be provided with a cleaning kit including glass cleaner, bathroom cleaner, toilet brush, multi-purpose degreaser, handheld broom and dustpan, microfiber cloths, paper towels, gloves, and a bucket.

Residence cleaning protocols are to be heightened during the pandemic with a focus on touch points such as doorknobs and light switches. At the direction of Ottawa Public Health, other measures may apply.

Once the self-isolation period is completed and the student has returned to their residence unit, the Cleaning Provider will clean the self-isolation unit following all health and safety protocols.