



Australian
National
University

COVID-safe Plan for Student Residences

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Contacts

Director, Residential Experience: director.residential.experience@anu.edu.au

The Australian National University

Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

<https://www.anu.edu.au/covid-19-advice>

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About this Document

The health and safety of all residents in ANU residences is of great concern to the University. The University, staff in ANU residences and each student share responsibility to ensure the risk of contracting COVID-19 is minimised as far as reasonably practicable.

This document takes an evidence- and risk-based approach using a hierarchy of controls to ensure that our environment is as safe as possible. The COVID-safe Plan for Student Residences identifies specific requirements for the management of on campus accommodation in response to COVID-19 at various risk levels, as identified in the [Campus Alert System](#). It outlines the actions to be undertaken for each COVID Alert Level to ensure the health and safety of residents. Activities external to residences that are not covered in these protocols must be conducted in accordance with ACT Health Public Health Directions.

This document should be read in concurrence with the [ANU COVID-safe Guidelines](#) and with prevailing ACT Health guidelines.

General Principles

The following general principles apply:

- Students should practice COVID-safe behaviours at all times:
 - Keep your distance, avoid crowded spaces, and wear a mask as per ACT public health directions.
 - Maintain good hygiene.
 - Stay home and get tested if unwell.
 - Check in using the QR codes to assist contact tracing.
 - Keep up to date with the Campus Alert Level.
- At all Campus Alert Level risk levels, students should be encouraged to maintain healthy routines including food, sleep and regular exercise (within relevant restriction limits).
- If students develop COVID-like symptoms at any risk-level they must get tested and isolate until they receive a negative result. Suitable locations and support during isolation are outlined in [Attachment 1](#)
- If a student tests positive for COVID-19 or is identified as a high-risk contact needing to quarantine, they must:
 - inform the Head of Residence (during business hours) or the Resident on call duty phone (outside business hours)
 - read and follow ACT Health advice on registration, testing, notification and isolation
 - notify the ANU via the [ANU Positive notification form](#)
 - adhere to Attachment 1: Protocols on management of positive cases and contacts in student accommodation.
- Students must follow any directions provided by ACT Health or the University if a COVID-19 outbreak management plan is enacted.

COVID-safe Requirements for Residents

Requirements prior to entering residential accommodation

All students moving into on campus accommodation in 2022 are required to be fully vaccinated; that is, they have received all the COVID-19 vaccinations for which they are eligible, including boosters. If they have not yet had a booster, this must be received at the earliest possible opportunity.

In addition, a negative Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) or PCR test is required to be shown prior to checking into on campus accommodation or when returning to the residence after returning after travelling outside of the ACT for a period of overnight or longer.

Procedure for Checking in to residence

Residence staff are required to view photographic evidence of vaccination status and a negative COVID-19 test taken within 24 hours of checking in to the residence. The student can show the result of either a RAT or PCR test to verify they have tested negative to COVID-19. Providing false information to the University on either the test result or vaccination status will be treated as a breach of the [ANU Student Code of Conduct](#) and action will be taken as per the ANU Discipline Rule.

Please do not travel to ANU to check in to your residence if you are COVID-19 positive or have symptoms. You should contact your residence and they will work with you to agree a suitable date for checking in.

Living in Residences

The following table provides detailed guidance on requirements at each risk level on the Campus Alert System.

The intent is to make the experience of living in residences as close to a domestic household as possible. An evidence-based approach has been taken to ensure that any additional measures are based on the level of risk of COVID-19 and have as little impact as possible on the daily lives of residential students, while still considering the specific risks in communal living environments and following ACT guidelines.

The Campus Alert System (or “traffic lights”) contains three risk levels – COVID-Normal (green), Medium (amber), and High (red).

- At the green level, day-to-day living will be minimally impacted, apart from the requirement for all individuals to practice COVID-safe behaviours at all times.
- At amber, residents will be able to live freely and socialise across residences but will be subject to restrictions that are consistent with those imposed on all Canberra residents by ACT Health (e.g. wearing masks in indoor public spaces).
- At red, which equates to a partial or full lockdown, students will be subject to Stay at Home Orders consistent to those applied by ACT Health to all Canberra residents, and will be required to interact in “bubbles” of a designated number of students with whom they share communal facilities such as bathrooms.

Access to quarantine spaces during occupancy in ANU Residences

If you become COVID-19 positive at any time during your occupancy in on campus accommodation, the residence team will provide you with a suitable place to complete the isolation period and provide practical and welfare support for the prescribed isolation period in accordance with the ACT Public Health Directive.

| Alert Level | Locations | People | Activities | Services and Operations |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| <p>LOW RISK (Green)</p> <p>COVID Normal.</p> <p>Baseline transmission in jurisdiction.</p> | <p><u>Isolation:</u> Residents with COVID-like symptoms not allowed in common areas until a negative test or symptoms resolve</p> <p><u>Engineering:</u> Clean shared spaces and equipment before and after every use (e.g. remotes, pool table, benches, etc) Cleaning products provided to enable cleaning of surfaces in kitchens and dining areas before and after use</p> <p><u>Administrative:</u> Follow ACT Health public health directions regarding density limits all areas including lifts Check in CBR app at each entrance – must be used by visitors. Post signs at all entrances instructing visitors to stay away if they have symptoms and requirements for social distancing, hygiene and self-isolation protocols.</p> | <p><u>Isolation:</u> Must self-isolate and get tested if any COVID-like symptoms Visitors not allowed if they have symptoms</p> <p><u>Engineering:</u> Residents must be fully vaccinated¹ against COVID-19 unless medically exempt</p> <p><u>Administrative:</u> If resident travels out of ACT for overnight, must advise residence via Starez account and must show negative RAT upon return. All non-residents must check in when they enter the residence via Check In CBR app</p> | <p><u>Administrative:</u> Maintain an attendance register (QR Code or sign in sheet) for activities or use of bus. Residents encouraged to be COVID-safe while attending events</p> | <p><u>Engineering:</u> Hand sanitising stations Cleaning regimens remain in place</p> <p><u>Administrative:</u> COVID updates promoted via residence social media channels Senior residents to be trained in Outbreak Management Plan and Infection Control Training² Conduct a fire evacuation drill in context of MEDIUM or above alert level</p> |
| <p>MEDIUM RISK (Amber)</p> <p>Increase in local transmission in jurisdiction.</p> | <p><u>Isolation:</u> Residents with COVID-like symptoms not allowed in common areas until a negative test or symptoms resolve</p> <p><u>Engineering:</u> Ensure floor markings and breathe screens in place to maintain 1.5m distancing. Designated times and/or locations for use of communal kitchen or dining hall Clean shared spaces and equipment before and after every use (e.g. remotes, pool table, benches, etc) Time limits in shared areas and maximise fresh air flow during time of use (2 hours). Cleaning products provided to enable cleaning of surfaces in kitchens and dining areas before and after use. Encourage hand and respiratory hygiene practices.</p> <p><u>Administrative:</u> Follow ACT Health public health directions regarding density limits all areas including lifts.</p> | <p><u>Isolation:</u> Must self-isolate and get tested if any COVID-like symptoms or have been identified as a high risk exposure Visitors not allowed if they have symptoms</p> <p><u>Engineering:</u> Residents must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 unless medically exempt</p> <p><u>Administrative:</u> Residents should monitor for symptoms and do a RAT or PCR test if they feel unwell or have been identified as having a high risk exposure. All non-residents must check in when they enter the residence via Check In CBR app Each resident should limit the number of guests in the building to two guests at a time. This is to reduce crowding in the residence, and assist with maintaining appropriate social distancing.</p> <p><u>PPE:</u> Masks must be worn when outside individual bedrooms in bedrooms off communal corridor</p> | <p><u>Elimination:</u> Residents are strongly encouraged not to attend high-risk events</p> <p><u>Substitution:</u> Outdoor or online options to be offered where possible Social activities and academic teams offer online options to sustain connections and engagement</p> <p><u>Isolation:</u> Limit face-to-face activities or use of bus to passengers and drivers from a single residence.</p> <p><u>Administrative:</u> Maintain an attendance register (QR Code or sign in sheet) for activities or use of bus.</p> | <p><u>Engineering:</u> Hand sanitising stations Cleaning regimens remain in place</p> <p><u>Administrative:</u> Review of Business Continuity Plans / Outbreak Management Plan Cashless transactions only in staff and student run services</p> |

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|---|--|---|--|--|
| | <p>Sign in/out register/QR codes Post signs at all entrances instructing visitors to stay away if they have symptoms and requirements for social distancing, hygiene and self-isolation protocols.</p> <p><u>PPE:</u> Masks must be worn in common areas.</p> | <p>residences or when outside apartment in apartment living residences.</p> | | |
| <p>HIGH RISK (Red)</p> <p>Lockdown or partial lockdown called.</p> | <p><u>Isolation:</u> Maintain 1.5m distancing, ensure floor markings and breathe screens in place. 1 person/4m² limit in in all areas except in lifts. Maximum 1 person in lifts or 1person/4m² if they are from the same bubble group Common areas limited to bubble groups only</p> <p><u>Engineering:</u> Designated times and/or locations for use of common spaces including common kitchens, laundry, dining hall, etc. Individually portioned meals to be eaten in individual's rooms (where applicable) Clean shared spaces and equipment before and after every use (e.g. remotes, pool table, benchtops, etc) Time limits in shared areas (2 hours). Restricted seating at dining tables (every second chair out of use). Cleaning products provided to enable cleaning of surfaces in kitchens and dining areas before and after use. Encourage hand and respiratory hygiene practices.</p> <p><u>Administrative:</u> Individuals not allowed into each other's rooms unless it is the designated guest. Sign in/out register/QR codes Strict entry controls by key cards Post signs at all entrances instructing visitors to stay away if they have symptoms and requirements for social distancing, hygiene and self-isolation protocols.</p> <p><u>PPE:</u> Masks must be worn in common areas</p> | <p><u>Elimination:</u> No guests from outside the bubble living group allowed to interact with the bubble</p> <p><u>Isolation:</u> Must self-isolate and get tested if any COVID-like symptoms Bubble living groups of no more than 40 residents who live on the same floor and/or use common kitchen and bathrooms.³ Individuals must self-isolate and get tested if any COVID-like symptoms</p> <p><u>Engineering:</u> Residents must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 unless medically exempt</p> <p><u>Administrative:</u> Resident must seek permission from Head of Hall to travel outside of ACT and return to residence. If resident travels out of the residence for overnight, must advise residence via Starez account and must show negative RAT upon return. All non-residents must check in when they enter the residence via Check In CBR app Each resident in a bubble can nominate one 'designated guest' from within the residence but outside of the bubble for the specified period of restrictions. Designated guests are not allowed in common areas</p> <p><u>PPE:</u> Masks must be worn when outside individual bedrooms in bedrooms off communal corridor residences or when outside apartment in apartment living residences.</p> | <p><u>Elimination:</u> Residents are strongly encouraged not to attend events. It is likely events will be restricted by ACT Health</p> <p><u>Substitution:</u> Online options to be offered where possible Social activities and academic teams offer online options to sustain connections and engagement</p> <p><u>Isolation:</u> Limit face-to-face activities or use of bus to bubble groups only. Must be approved by Head of Residence.</p> | <p><u>Engineering:</u> Hand sanitising stations Increase or modify cleaning regimens as required</p> <p><u>Administrative:</u> Move to online services as much as possible Cashless transactions</p> |

Notes:

1. Proof of vaccination or medical exemption from the Australian Immunisation Register must be provided to the residence staff upon check in and updated as required. This information will be stored confidentially by the residence.
2. Australian Government Infection Control Training : <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training>
3. Residents in self-contained apartments will be managed as a household in accordance with ACT Health restrictions.

Attachment:

1. Management of cases and contacts in student accommodation protocols