Yale *Environmental Health & Safety*

Health and Safety Guidance for Students in Isolation in Residential Colleges

Communal bathrooms are not considered sites at high risk for transmission of COVID. There are no reports in literature of outbreaks associated with use of common bathrooms; outbreaks and clusters at Yale that have been investigated never implicated bathrooms as source of exposure to virus. What follows is guidance to further reduce risk of infection if students with known infection (in isolation in dorm) or infection that has not yet been detected through regular testing are sharing bathrooms with others. These instructions also address measures to reduce the risk of infection with other highly infectious viruses, such as norovirus that can be transmitted by touching contaminated surfaces and then mucous membranes. In addition, bathroom ventilation systems are constantly exhausting these locations and are monitored remotely by Yale Facilities to ensure operability.

Shared bathrooms:

- Communal bathrooms, in hallway locations, will be cleaned and disinfected twice per day by Yale Custodial Services. These facilities will be taken "Out of service" during this time.
- In Suite bathrooms, will be cleaned by suite occupants.
    - Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces as often as possible (e.g., counters, bathroom fixtures, door handles, toilets).
    - Use household cleaning and disinfectant sprays or wipes (which are provided and will be resupplied to all colleges). Be sure to follow the product label instructions.
- Minimize time spent in shared bathrooms.
- Wear a Yale recommended mask in bathrooms except when toothbrushing or while taking a shower.
    - KN95s must be worn by isolating students to maximize source control, except as indicated above.
- If toilets have lids, close them before flushing
- Wash your hands using soap and water for at least 20 seconds before you leave the bathroom.
- Use paper towels to dry your hands. Open bathroom doors with paper towels before throwing them away.
- If the bathroom has a switch that controls the exhaust ventilation in the restroom making sure vent/exhaust systems are on, and left on upon exiting the BR?
- **Signage for shared bathrooms for students who are isolating:**
    - Signage will be posted on bathroom doors by students who are isolating if they are unmasked for oral hygiene or showering to prevent others from entering these spaces at the same time.
- If possible, it is preferable that students who are in isolation use shared bathrooms for the purpose of toothbrushing or taking a shower during off-peak times.

Masks:

An ASTM mask is required in the following indoor settings in residential colleges for *all* students:

- Shared bathrooms (except when toothbrushing or while taking a shower)
- Hallways
- Common rooms when anyone other than the suite occupants are present

If a student is in isolation, then the isolating student and all suite occupants must wear a provided KN95 found in the isolation package when not in their own bedrooms.

Hand washing:

- You should wash your hands with soap and water frequently throughout the day and before eating and drinking, counting to at least 20 seconds each time
- If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 70% alcohol
- Always avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with hands

References

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3. SARS-CoV-2 and other pathogens in municipal wastewater, landfill leachate, and solid waste: A review about virus surveillance, infectivity, and inactivation https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2021.111839

4. National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS) https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/surveillance/wastewater-surveillance/wastewater-surveillance.html

5. Face mask fit modifications that improve source control performance https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2021.10.041