

**Graduate Student Community Health and Hygiene Policy
2020–21 Academic Year**

Policy

All members of the graduate student community whether new, returning or in residence, are expected to abide by and participate in the [Caltech Community Commitment](#). This policy recognizes the risks of COVID-19, and the responsibility of each member of the Caltech community to follow practices that protect the health and well-being of all of its members. All graduate students who participate in instruction, research, or who live in our residences, must familiarize themselves with the current status of our [phased return to on-campus activities](#), and must continue to monitor updates and changes to campus health guidelines. These can be found at [Caltech's Response to COVID-19 website](#). All campus policy questions should be directed to the [Graduate Studies Office](#).

Graduate Students

Consistent with the Community Commitment, all students are expected to comply with the following public health and Institute guidelines:

- Graduate students must comply with all current campus protocols for the return to research and instruction. Maintain a minimum of 6 feet (2 meters) physical distancing from others. This includes guidelines for physical distancing, hygiene, and face coverings. Within campus facilities, students must comply with posted directions about hygiene; building entry and egress; movement through hallways, stairs, and elevators; and access to classrooms, laboratories, offices, and other spaces.
- Wear face coverings inside of campus buildings and outside when it is difficult to maintain a minimum of 6-ft physical distancing. It is strongly recommended that students also wear face coverings when inside of suite and apartment common spaces, when feasible.
- Participate in daily health monitoring, including temperature checks, consistent with any directives or programs established for students in residence. This may involve the use of Kinsa thermometers and smartphone applications that enable students to easily track symptoms and report illness. The Institute will provide tools to help students document changes to their health and students will be required to utilize these tools. For example, students will need to complete a daily health attestation and location log in the Caltech COVID-19 Reporting application within [access.caltech](#).
- Immediately report any symptoms of illness to [Student Wellness Services](#).
- Engage in contact tracing efforts, including the provision of an accurate accounting of all contacts with individuals on and off campus.

- Cooperate with directives to isolate and quarantine as required in the case of illness or exposure. For example, students living in undergraduate residences will be relocated to appropriate isolation and quarantine spaces.
- Engage in personal hygiene practices such as frequent handwashing, use of hand sanitizer when handwashing is not possible, and covering sneezes or coughs with tissues that are immediately discarded in a trash can. Frequently sanitize high-touch surfaces such as bathroom fixtures, light switches, doorknobs, appliances, and other items.
- Comply with Caltech immunization requirements, including verification of seasonal flu vaccine when it becomes available. Exemption can only be arranged under [Caltech's Vaccine Exemption Policy](#).
- Student card access to campus facilities will be limited. Students are prohibited from using their card to let anyone else into a campus facility.
- Comply with all public health directives and associated guidelines and expectations from the Institute.
- Students who are on a leave of absence or otherwise not currently enrolled are not permitted to access any campus facilities for any reason, without the express permission of the Graduate Dean.

Graduate Students Living in Caltech Residences and Caltech Owned Properties:

Student Affairs has established the following expectations for graduate students living in Caltech residences. All students living on campus should familiarize themselves with the current [Resident Guide and Housing Policies Handbook](#).

- Graduate students living in Caltech housing are prohibited from receiving outside visitors or hosting guests, including other Caltech students. Caltech Housing includes the Catalina apartments, Marks/Braun residential community and leased properties adjacent to campus. This is consistent with the California Department of Public Health recently released guidelines for institutes of higher education (IHE). The State of California guidelines limit guests, requiring campuses to restrict "building access by non-residents, including outside guests, non-residential staff and others." These include parents, family members, friends, research group members, and significant others; they are not permitted to be physically present in those spaces.
- Residential students should take appropriate precautions when leaving campus to conduct business or obtain services within the local community (shopping, exercising, and other related activities), following public health guidelines in all interactions.
- The Catalina Recreation Rooms are closed until further notice.
- Students must comply with information posted on the patio tables and grill areas of the Catalina Recreation Rooms.
- Use of the outdoor cooking space in the Catalina apartment complexes is available for one household at a time.
- Access to children's play structures in Caltech Housing are off-limits.

Campus Policies on Graduate Student Gatherings and Activities

All in-person social gatherings are currently prohibited per public health orders. Compliance with these policies will be particularly important in the coming academic year. The following new policies will be in effect through fall term and will be revised or extended through subsequent terms based on public health conditions.

- The Hameetman Student Center is closed except for the business on the main level.
- Student clubs and organizations must operate virtually.
- Gatherings at outside tables on campus are prohibited, please read and comply with signage.
- If the recreation spaces on campus are able to open at a later date, students must follow all health and hygiene requirements.
- If conditions permit, ORE will organize and approve small gatherings that are consistent with health and Institute policies.

Food Service

Caltech Dining Services will serve the campus community in ways that are consistent with campus policy and public health guidelines. Students must adhere to posted protocols for meals and food consumption; these will emphasize takeaway service and include the following guidelines:

- Students entering dining facilities must wear a face covering over their mouth and nose.
- Students must use designated dining facilities and procure meals during pre-determined times.
- All meals are to-go and group meals are prohibited.
- Outdoor dining spaces will require a 6-foot physical distancing.
- Students must follow all instructions from Dining Services staff.

Policy Enforcement

The health and safety of the Caltech community depends on the actions of each individual member, and students whose actions demonstrate that they do not appreciate this cannot continue to be members of the campus community.

The primary approach to violations of COVID-19 related campus and residential policies will be educational. Graduate students who violate policies and guidelines in ways that put other students and the community at risk will be encouraged to understand the current rigorous policies and guidelines. Deliberate and reckless violations of health and hygiene policies, or repeated carelessness with respect to such policies, will not be tolerated.

The sanction for students who deliberately or repeatedly violate these policies will be the loss of residential status and/or access to campus facilities. The Graduate Studies Office and the Office for Residential Experience will determine whether policy violations have occurred and the Graduate Dean or his designee will administer sanctions.