Student Health and Hygiene Policies

Institute Policies

All Caltech students and visiting students are expected to follow practices and engage in conduct that protects the health and well-being of the entire community.

Given the changing nature of the coronavirus pandemic and the Institute’s ongoing efforts to safely advance its teaching and research mission, students are responsible to understand and follow all current Institute health policies. Students should understand the Community Commitment and current Institute guidance on COVID-19 prevention, which can be found at www.together.caltech.edu. Currently, health policies and procedures remain in place for all individuals reporting to campus, regardless of vaccination status.

They include the following:

- Participate in the Institute’s surveillance testing program, if required to do so under the current testing guidelines.
- Follow directives from Student Wellness Services to isolate or quarantine.
- Follow building and security protocols, including guidelines about building entry and egress, movement through hallways, stairs, and elevators, and access to classrooms, laboratories, offices, and other spaces.
- Adhere to campus requirements for building access including use of personal Caltech ID cards to enter campus buildings, residences and research and academic spaces.
- Comply with posted hygiene protocols inside campus facilities.
- Comply with the current COVID-19 vaccination policy and other Caltech immunization requirements for students.
- Follow current guidance and restrictions on domestic and international travel.
- Adhere to the protocols and requirements outlined Caltech’s Guidelines for Campus Events.

Policies for Students Living in Caltech Residences and Caltech Owned Properties

Student Affairs has established the following policies for students living in Caltech residences. All students living on campus must also familiarize themselves with the current Resident Guide and Housing Policies Handbook, and the summer 2021 addendum.

- Students living in the residences may remove face coverings indoors and do not need to physically distance inside of the residences. However, we strongly encourage all community members to wear masks and maintain physical distancing when interacting elsewhere with individuals who may not be vaccinated, and in all crowded public spaces.
- Undergraduate students may not grant access to campus housing to non-residents.
• Students living in Caltech housing must comply with current guidelines regarding visitors or guests.
• Residential students should take appropriate precautions when leaving campus to conduct business or obtain services within the community, and should follow public health guidelines in all interactions.
• Residential communities must comply with the Institute’s guidelines regarding social gatherings and must register and receive approval for events.

Food Service

Caltech Dining Services will serve the campus community in ways that are consistent with campus policies and public health guidelines.

• Students must adhere to posted protocols for meals and food consumption.
• Students must follow all instructions from Dining Services staff.

Policy Enforcement

The primary approach to violations of COVID-19 related campus and residential policies will be educational. Students who carelessly or mistakenly violate policies and guidelines in ways that put other students and/or the community at risk will be urged to understand more fully the importance of the current policies and guidelines.

However, deliberate or reckless violations, or repeated carelessness, are not acceptable, and may result in loss of housing or involuntary leave. The health and safety of the entire Caltech community depends on the actions of each individual, and students whose actions demonstrate that they do not understand this cannot continue to be members of the campus community. The COVID-19 Student Conduct Process for Summer 2021 can be found here.