

COVID-19 Protocols

Outdoor Time During Quarantine (Self-Isolation) in Residence Fall Semester 2021



August 25, 2021

Outdoor Time During Quarantine (Self-Isolation) in Residence

In preparing for students to complete any mandatory quarantine (self-isolation) period in Residence at Acadia, the need for time outside has been identified as a key priority. In the 2020-21 academic year, a plan to allow quarantining (self-isolating) students outside on a scheduled and heavily supervised basis was proposed and implemented. The plan was based on advice received from Dr. Strang, Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Province of Nova Scotia, and interpreted by representatives of the Department of Labour and Advanced Education. Specifically, Dr. Strang has provided Universities with the authority to define all or part of campus as “the property” when interpreting the directives given to those in isolation. Based on this, Acadia University will allow formally requested, approved, and supervised time outside for students by supplementing the schedule with additional supervision.

Overview

Students who are completing any mandatory quarantine (self-isolation) period may request approval for scheduled, and supervised access to designated outdoor spaces (one assigned for each building) at any time between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. The request will be submitted to the Residence Life Office for review and approval. Supervision will be provided by contracted security staff. Limited exceptions will be made for students who require access to outdoor spaces outside of scheduled hours (such as smokers, emotional support animal handlers, and students requiring additional mental health support) provided that they are directly supervised by a university employee. In addition, students will be permitted to submit a request for approved, scheduled, and supervised access to one of two larger recreational locations that allow more space for activity such as running and other exercise between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday to Friday and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on weekends and holidays. In order to participate in this outdoor time, there are expectations that students must agree to and follow.

Participation in Outdoor Time

In order to participate in outdoor time, students must agree to the following:

1. Students must perform a self-assessment following the Nova Scotia COVID-19 symptom list prior to participating in outdoor time. Students who are experiencing any of the symptoms of COVID-19 may not participate in outdoor time for any reason. <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/symptoms-and-testing/>
2. Students must be following quarantine (self-isolation) requirements to remain in their room except for the approved, scheduled, and supervised outdoor time, bathroom access and designated laundry time.
3. Students must wear a mask at all times while outside their residence room and while travelling (both indoors and outdoors) to and from their designated outdoor or recreational spaces back to their assigned quarantine (self-isolation) room.
4. Students must always maintain a distance of 2 metres (6ft) from others while travelling to/from designated outdoor or recreational spaces and follow all posted signage.
5. Students must wash their hands before leaving their room/washroom and avoid touching surfaces as much as possible while exiting the building. Students should also bring hand sanitizer with them for use during outdoor time. Hand sanitizer stations will be placed at each entrance and exit. Students should avoid touching their face, nose, mouth, and eyes.
6. Students must remain within the boundaries of designated outdoor spaces, recreation spaces, designated smoking areas, and/or identified travel routes at all times.
7. Students must not block pathways, entrances, or exits and ensure that it is possible for other campus users to pass by with a distance of 2 metres (6ft) or greater.

8. Students must wear a wrist band (provided to all students in quarantine or self-isolation) and ensure that it is visible at all times.
9. Activities that include contact with a common object (e.g. frisbee, football, etc.) is only permitted when all participants thoroughly sanitize their hands before and after participating. All objects need to be wiped and disinfected routinely.
10. Activities involving shouting, cheering, yelling, and/or singing are not permitted during outdoor time.

Designated Locations

Each building has a designated location for use by students in quarantine (self-isolation). These locations have been selected based on size, the number of users and for their proximity to each building, so that students do not need to cross pedestrian paths or areas occupied by other campus users in order to access the space.

The student will request permission to leave their quarantine (self-isolation) room and may only do so at the approved scheduled time. Students will follow the designated exit paths from the building and bring their ID card (for tracking purposes) and hand sanitizer.

The designated residence areas will be under constant supervision by contracted security staff. This supervision will include entrance and exit points. The entrance and exit routes to the building also have CCTV cameras that are monitored. There are also Acadia Wi-fi, RFID scanners, and Electronic Access Controls that record student movement in and out of the buildings.

Additional Campus Patrollers with the Safety and Security Department will provide a second layer of compliance supervision as part of their duties. Individual students are not left unattended at any time while outdoors.

Students returning to the residence will swipe in (for tracking purposes) and return directly to their quarantine (self-isolation) room. These outdoor areas will be available for use between the hours of 9am to 5pm until September 15.

Students in quarantine (self-isolation) will not be permitted access to any space in residence other than their assigned quarantine (self-isolation) room, designated laundry time, and designated washroom facilities.

Students in quarantine (self-isolation) must return from their approved, scheduled, and supervised outdoor time to their room by 5:00 pm. The residence common areas and exit doors are constantly monitored to ensure that compliance is met. In addition, counts will be done at random times to ensure all residents are accounted for (inside and outside), along with regular end of day counts and checks to ensure everyone is in their quarantine (self-isolation) room and compliant.

Compliance checks also occur when meals are picked up (3 times daily). The specific hours have been selected to prevent students from being out after dusk when monitoring will be more difficult. Maps for each building are shown below.

Designated Outdoor Spaces



Cutten House



Crowell Tower



Eaton, Christofo, Roy Jodrey



Chase Court



Chipman House



Dennis House



Seminary House



War Memorial House



Whitman House

Recreational Locations

Two larger recreational locations – Tower Field and University Hall Lawn – have been selected to allow students to have space for exercise during the quarantine (self-isolation) period.

Tower Field will be available to students in Crowell Tower, Cutten House, Chase Court, Dennis House, Eaton House, Christofor House, Roy Jodrey Hall, and Chipman House. University Hall Lawn will be available to students in War Memorial House, Seminary House, and Whitman House. To access these locations, students must use the routes identified on the map.

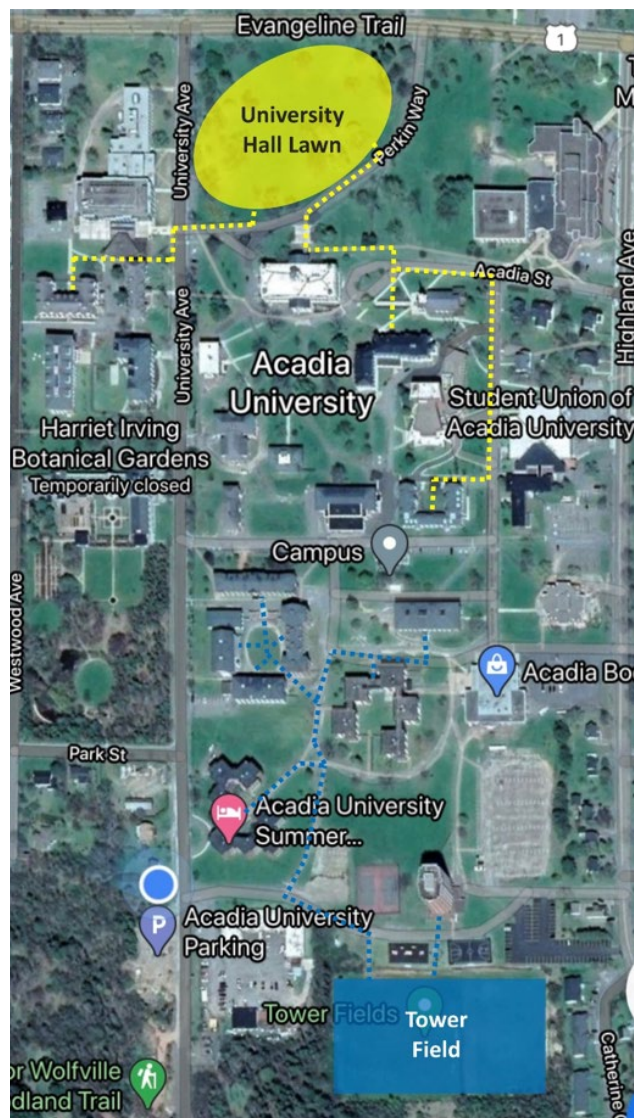
Recreational Locations will be available from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Friday (excluding official Holidays) to avoid contact with employees and other campus users during the regular workday. These locations will be available from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on weekends and on official Holidays. The recreational locations will be supervised by Department of Safety and Security staff members and contracted security personnel on site, while operational.

Signage

Designated Locations and Recreational Locations will be identified by temporary signage and pylons. This is to ensure both that students understand the specific area they are expected to remain in and so that other campus users can actively avoid these areas, as required. Signage will not be placed on travel routes as these are used irregularly and carry a low risk of contact with students in quarantine (self-isolation) as they will not be stopping, will maintain physical distancing, and will be wearing masks. Students will be reminded that they are not permitted to stop for any reason while using designated travel routes.

Wrist Bands

All students who are participating in quarantine (self-isolation) will be given wristbands and instructed to wear these at all times. Students must ensure that the wristbands are visible while taking part in outdoor quarantine (self-isolation) time. Each designated location will have a different colour of wristband to allow for students to be easily identified. Wrist band colours and their corresponding locations are as follows:



- Crowell Tower: Red
- Cutten House: Lime Green
- Chase Court: Purple
- Dennis House: Neon Pink
- Eaton, Christofor, Roy Jodrey: Gold
- Chipman House: Blue
- Whitman House: Yellow
- Seminary House: Orange
- War Memorial House: Silver

Security and Monitoring

The student will request permission to leave their quarantine (self-isolation) room and a scheduled time will be approved. Students will follow the designated exit paths from the building, wear their wristband, bring their ID card (for tracking purposes) and bring their hand sanitizer. The designated residence areas will be under constant supervision by contracted security staff. This supervision will include entrance and exit points. The entrance and exit routes to the building also have CCTV cameras that are monitored. There are also Acadia Wi-fi, RFID scanners, and Electronic Access Controls that record student movement in and out of the buildings. Additional Campus Patrollers with the Safety and Security Department will provide a second layer of compliance supervision as part of their duties. Individual students are not left unattended at any time while outdoors. Students returning to the residence will swipe in (for tracking purposes) and return directly to their quarantine (self-isolation) room. These areas will be available for use between the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Students in quarantine (self-isolation) are not permitted access to any space in residence other than their assigned quarantine (self-isolation) room, designated laundry time, and designated washroom facilities. Students in quarantine (self-isolation) must return from their approved, scheduled, and supervised outdoor time to their room by 5:00 pm. The residence public areas and exit doors are constantly monitored to ensure that compliance (remaining in their assigned rooms) is met. In addition, counts will be done at random times to ensure all occupants are accounted for (inside and outside), along with regular end of day counts and checks to ensure everyone is in their quarantine (self-isolation) room and compliant. The recreational locations

will be supervised by Department of Safety and Security staff members on site, while operational. Students who are found to not be complying with these expectations should be directed to return to their rooms and refrain from using outdoor locations until told otherwise by the Department of Residence Life. All staff working with students in quarantine during outdoor time will wear masks at all times.

Communication to Students

Emails will be sent to all students participating in quarantine (self-isolation) outlining these plans and including maps of designated locations and recreational locations. Emails will be specific to each building. RAs/SRAs will also be informed of this plan and be asked to share this information with students.

Communication to Employees

An email will be sent to all employees informing them of the locations and hours for all designated and recreational locations including travel routes.

Coordination with NS Health Testing

(If COVID-19 asymptomatic testing will be done in the future, this section applies) Depending on your vaccination status, testing is recommended at the start and end of your quarantine (self-isolation) time frame. Testing must be standard PCR tests and can not be rapid tests. If you enter Nova Scotia by air, you can complete your test when you arrive at the Halifax Stanfield International Airport and complete a COVID-19 self-swab test. Alternatively, you will receive a take home test kit (international travellers) or you can book a COVID-19 test with Nova Scotia Health Authority (domestic travellers).