

Frequently Asked Questions

Public Health Stay in Place Recommendation
for University of Michigan Students
Issued Jan 27, 2021



What does the Stay in Place recommendation ask?

University of Michigan students enrolled in the winter term and living on or off campus are urged to “stay in place” and remain in their current residence.

Students who don’t have any COVID-19 symptoms or known exposure can leave their residence for the reasons below. They must wear face masks when out and maintain at least 6 feet of from others. Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 or know exposure should be in quarantine and only go out for COVID-19 testing or medical care.

- To go to classes and instructional labs
- To go to off-site clinical rotations or experiential learning assignments – with approval from the college dean and the organization/site of activity
- To go to work, including in-person research, if it cannot be done remotely – with approval from the employer
- To pick up food and return home to eat it
- To get medications or attend medical appointments
- To attend religious practice activities
- To get tested for COVID-19
- To exercise/be physically active outside – in groups of no more than 2 people
- For volunteering in approved vaccination and testing efforts

The Health Department strongly recommends no in-person gathering with people who are not in your household. This includes visitors to on- or off-campus housing.

Why was the recommendation put in place?

To date, 14 cases of the B117 variant have been identified in the University of Michigan community. Stay in place recommendations are intended to limit socializing among students, slow the spread of cases identified as variant, and allow for effective case investigation and contact tracing. The B117 variant is approximately 50% more transmissible and may lead to faster spread of the virus and increase the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths.

What types of students must follow this recommendation?

This recommendation applies to all U-M students (undergraduate, graduate, and professional) who are enrolled in Winter 2021. It applies to students living on or off campus.

How will this be enforced?

This is a recommendation, not an order. The Health Department encourages everyone to follow it as much as possible to control the spread of the identified variant as well as illness related to the “normal” COVID-19 strain already circulating.

With this recommendation, do we still have to social distance and wear masks/face coverings?

Yes. It is very important that everyone continues to socially distance and wear face masks at all times whenever you are outside your residence or when you are with others in congregate living settings (apartments with more than 4 residents, common areas in dorms, Greek housing, etc.).

Under existing state orders, everyone must continue to separate themselves from others not already in their household by at least 6 feet and wear a face mask when out in public or in common areas. For those households that include 20 or more unrelated individuals, the [MDHHS Gatherings and Face Mask Order](#) defines household as individuals sharing a bedroom. Under this order, masks are recommended inside these dwellings any time individuals are outside of their bedrooms.

Can I go to class?

Yes.

Can I go on campus to study, print materials for class, or participate in virtual classes?

Yes, students can go on campus to access essential technology at U-M designated study areas that provide for single person study spaces. These include activities such as studying, printing, or participating in virtual classes. Strict adherence to preventive measures is required.

What is not recommended is group study (this should be done virtually) or going to study at places such as coffee shops, restaurants, or other establishments where multiple students/people may gather, even if they are on campus or in U-M buildings.

Can I go to work on campus?

Yes, if your work cannot be done remotely, and with the permission of your employer.

Can I go to work off campus?

Yes, if your work cannot be done remotely, and with the permission of your employer.

Can I go to the Center Campus Recreation Building/North Campus Research Complex/etc. to work out?

Not recommended. While physical activity is encouraged, the recommendation only allows for physical activity outside to reduce the risk of exposure. No more than 2 people should gather for physical activity.

Can I play a pick-up basketball game with my friends?

Not recommended. Physical activity needs to be done in a group of no more than 2 people.

Can I leave campus to go home?

Not recommended. Students should remain at their current address. It is very important that students do this to prevent bringing COVID-19 or the variant back to their home or other areas.

What happens if the number of variant cases still goes up during the Stay in Place recommendation?

If the number of identified variant cases continues to go up, then the stay in place recommendation may be extended or further measures may be required. If followed, the recommendation will help slow transmission and allow for full investigation of the current situation.

How can I get a COVID-19 test?

U-M students are encouraged to seek asymptomatic COVID-19 testing on campus through the [Community Sampling and Tracking Program](#). Students with symptoms should seek testing on campus at University Health Service (uhs.umich.edu).

The Health Department is also planning additional no-cost COVID-19 [testing events](#) for the community as a whole (www.washtenaw.org/covid19test).

Do I have to talk to the case investigators or contact tracers?

If you get called by a case investigator or contact tracer, it is very important that you speak with them and answer their questions to the best of your ability. Case investigations and contact tracing are some of the best tools that we have to stop the spread of COVID-19 (along with social distancing, face coverings, and frequent hand cleaning). Everything that you tell health officials is confidential and is only used to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Information current as of Jan 27, 2021