

From: [Susan Helyar](#)
To: [Tracy Smart](#); [Patricia Teh](#)
Subject: A few suggestions re enhanced SAHO and the support needed to sustain restrictions on work
Date: Monday, 16 August 2021 10:51:45 PM
Attachments: [s22](#)

Hi Tracy and Pat, I have attached her a revised version of the Enhanced SAHO letter that went to students in Fenner, Wamburun, Bruce and Johns today. It captures changes based on my session with students tonight – the Wright Hall feisty crowd.

I have also outlined below a draft letter that could be sent from ANU to all students who are affected by our restriction on working in areas other than health care child care and contact tracing.

To Whom It May Concern

All ANU students who live in on campus accommodation are living under Enhanced Stay at Home Orders developed in consultation with ACT Health. These additional restrictions on activity are designed to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure and transmission in communal living environments that include shared bathrooms and kitchens/dining rooms. The restrictions significantly reduce the scope of activities students can participate in and limit their social interactions.

Under these Enhanced Stay At Home Orders essential work is defined as employment in health care, child care and contact tracing. Work in hospitality, retail, other customer facing roles and shared office environments create unacceptable risks of exposure to COVID-19 that could then be brought back to a large number of students in the communal living environment.

Please accept this letter as verification that this person is unable to work in their usual employment during the ACT Lockdown because of the risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am keen for the revised content and the verification letter to go out as part of the morning comms.

Ta for your review and consideration, happy to chat about details
Susan

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University COVID-19 Protocols for Residential Facilities

Annex 4: Management of students in student accommodation during ACT lockdown

Last updated: 14 September 2021

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CRICOS Provider No. 00120C

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Overview

This appendix to the [Residential Guidelines and Protocols at ANU campuses - COVID-19 Response](#) has been developed specifically to deal with the management of students in ANU student accommodation during an ACT-wide lockdown. The document is applicable to any residential hall, Lodge or affiliated hall linked to the ANU when the Acton [campus alert level](#) is at high (orange) or extreme (red).

During an ACT-wide lockdown, all Canberrans are required to stay at home as a default. There are only [six essential reasons to leave home](#) as determined by ACT Health:

- to buy essential groceries and medicine
- to access essential healthcare including in-home care
- for essential work
- to exercise outdoors for two hours per day in your region
- to get a COVID-19 test
- to get a COVID-19 vaccination.

In ANU student accommodation, additional restrictions are required due to the unique risk profile of shared accommodation. These protocols have been developed in consultation with ACT Health and broadly consistent with their Public Health Directions applicable to all individuals in the ACT. They attempt to balance public health and wellbeing risks by ensuring that life in residences is both safe and comfortable.

While these protocols provide the general principles to manage student residences in lockdown, implementation will vary between residences depending on operating factors and as determined by the Head of Residence. It should also be emphasised that students should focus less on the rules and more on the key principles behind the rules.

The key reference utilised for the development of this document was the [ACT Health COVID-19 webpage](#).

Key principles

Key to this protocol is to maintain a positive living environment for residents with a proactive approach to risk mitigation while following ACT Public Health Directions and advice.

Risks include:

- Public Health risks related to COVID-19; specifically, both the risk of a student contracting COVID-19, and the risk of it being widely transmitted throughout the residence.
- Mental health and wellbeing risks associated with restrictions to movement for a period of time.

Restrictions on activities occurring outside residences, including essential reasons to leave, are based on ACT Health restrictions where possible.

Restrictions within the residence are also designed to reduce both the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and the impact when close contacts or positive cases are identified amongst residential students. ACT Health directions are written for small households and not residences containing several hundred people. To mitigate the risk, the residences are to be divided into smaller household groups or “bubbles. This approach means that, if a positive case or close contact is detected within a bubble, the impact to students in other bubbles is minimised.

Regardless of these rules and protocols, the key underlying principle for all individuals when subject to an ACT Lockdown is to minimise contact with other people as much as possible, and to be COVID-safe at all times. For students in residences this means wearing a mask at all times when outside of their room and reducing movement out of the residence.

Types of accommodation

Types of student accommodation on the ANU campus include the following:

- Individual studio or single room apartments – students can only leave their apartments for one of the approved reasons according to the risk level.
- Multi-bedroom apartments – individuals will have their own room but will use shared spaces such as bathrooms, kitchens and lounge areas. Students can only leave their apartments for one of the approved reasons according to the risk level.
- Dormitory style accommodation - individuals will have their own room but will need to share bathrooms. In most cases, students will be designated into geographical bubbles, although this may be lifted as risk levels reduced as deemed by the Public Health Lead – COVID Response Office. Use of all other shared spaces such as kitchens and lounge rooms will be controlled to enable social distancing.

Levels of restrictions

As residences are a shared living environment, additional restrictions will come into place when the risk escalates. These restrictions are developed by the ANU COVID Response Office in consultation with ACT Health, the Director of Residential Experience, and the Heads of Residences. The following outlines the levels of restrictions during an ACT-wide lockdown and triggers for escalating.

1. **Level 1 (stay-at-home orders)**
This is triggered when an ACT-wide lockdown is declared and/or the Acton [campus alert level](#) is raised to high (orange).
2. **Level 2 (enhanced stay-at-home orders)**
This is triggered when the Acton [campus alert level](#) is raised to extreme (red).
3. **Level 3 (enhanced stay-at-home orders in quarantine)**
This is triggered when an individual or individuals in the residence are identified as close contacts, which renders other residents as secondary contacts. Only dormitory style accommodation would operate under this model.
4. **Level 4 (full quarantine)**
Individuals who are close or casual contacts, or secondary contacts when their close contact is outside the residence, will have to enter quarantine in a self-contained or studio apartment. This could be their own apartment if they are in a single studio or the resident will be moved to a suitable location.

The protocols for these levels are detailed in this document but a simple overview can be found in figure 1.

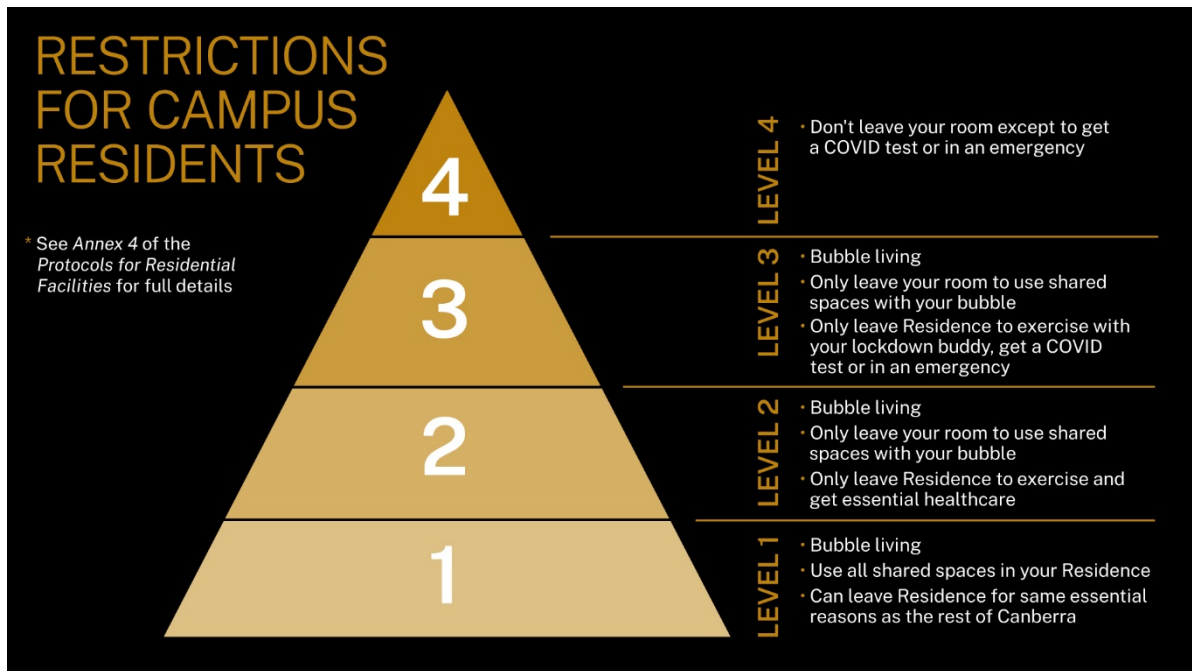


Figure 1 – broad overview of restrictions at different levels.

In the event a resident is found to be COVID-19 positive, the Public Health Lead – COVID Response Office will stand up the Outbreak Operations Group and the Outbreak Plan will be implemented. The protocol for this scenario is detailed in [Annex 1 to Residential Guidelines - Outbreak plan](#).

Operational protocol

Level 1 (stay-at-home orders)

Living in the residence

Students may leave their rooms provided they remain in their bubble groups for the following approved purposes:

- to use the allocated bathroom facilities
- to use the kitchen or dining hall at an agreed upon time
- to use other shared spaces, such as a study area, or lawn, in a COVID-safe manner as approved by your Head of Residence. A capacity of 1 person per 4m² should be maintained whether indoors or outdoors and masks must be worn.
- to visit their nominated buddies or designated guest, including in their room

A mask must be worn at all times when the student is out of their room, even within their bubble group or area.

Lockdown 'bubble buddies' and designated guests.

Residents in dormitory style accommodation can nominate two other people from within their bubble to be their buddies. Residents in single apartments can nominate two people from the same residence to be their buddies who are also in a single apartment. This lockdown buddy cannot change throughout the lockdown period.

In addition to lockdown buddies, each resident can have a designated guest from another bubble or outside of their residence.

All designated guests must be recorded in your StarRez account as your designated guest.

Designated guests must comply with the following requirements:

- Check in using the QR code in the front entrance of the building (if from outside the residence)
- Visit only the nominated resident, and only in their room
- Enter and leave the Residential Hall directly without spending time in communal areas.
- Do not travel in the lift with anyone other than the person they are visiting
- Wear a mask at all times when transiting in the residence, only removing the mask when in the room of the person you are designated to visit

You can also spend time with your designated guest outside of the residence for one of the essential reasons listed above.

Meals and food delivery

In catered halls, meals will be prepared in the Residence's kitchen and individually portioned for the students to eat in their own rooms. Where practicable, heads of halls may designate meal times according to bubbles in the dining hall.

Other meal options include ordering food or groceries online. Delivery is the strongly preferred method to reduce exposure with click and collect being the next preferred if delivery timeframes are not viable.

Meals, shopping or groceries ordered online will be delivered to Residential Hall reception. Students will be asked to ensure all deliveries occur during normal business hours. The number of deliveries each day should be limited where possible.

Waste management

Students can remove their rubbish as per normal as long as they wear a mask when leaving their room.

Cleaning

Students will be responsible for cleaning their own rooms and apartments during their stay, including frequently touched areas and surfaces. Antibacterial wipes and multipurpose cleaner with disinfectant and paper towel will be made available.

Individuals who are sharing common spaces should develop a cleaning roster to ensure their space remains clean.

Laundry

Students are allowed to use the laundry room at a capacity of one person at a time or with their bubble buddy. Cleaning products are to be provided to allow the residents are to clean the surfaces before and after use. Students should wear a mask at all times.

Emergency Response and evacuations

If there is a Fire Alarm, the standard protocols must be followed. Students will be required, where possible, to don a mask before evacuating. Additional masks and gloves will be available if required.

In the event of a medical emergency, ANU staff and/or students should dial 000 and administer first aid using appropriate PPE.

The Public Health Lead – COVID Response Office should also be notified as soon as possible.

Leaving the residence for essential reasons

While the default position is to remain in their bubble group within their residence, students may leave the residence for an essential reason [as determined by ACT Health](#).

Leaving to undertake all types of essential work in accordance with the ACT Health definitions is allowed. This includes working in other student residences provided there is no contact with other students.

Exercise outdoors can be undertaken with up to five people from any bubble group or external to the residences for up to two hours a day. Social and recreational sport is allowed with a maximum of five people. If exercising in a group, students must remember to remain COVID-safe through maintaining distance and wearing a mask. If sports equipment is used, please remember to clean it after use. Students should not interact with anyone else with whom they are not exercising with.

With the exception of exercise, in accordance with the ACT Health guidelines you can only be accompanied by one other person when leaving for essential reasons, or two if they from the same bubble group.

The risks of introducing COVID-19 into the residence increases each time a student leaves the residence. For this reason, students are encouraged to remain in the residence unless absolutely necessary. Alternatives to going out should be chosen when possible. For example:

- Buying groceries and essentials online and having it delivered through contactless delivery. If students need to leave to purchase essentials, they are strongly encouraged to limit these trips to once a week.
- Considering telehealth or other virtual care options where possible and clinically appropriate
- Working from home and refraining from working in settings which involve high risk of COVID-19.

Visitors and travel

Residents are only allowed to visit other households outside of the residence if it is that of an intimate partner; for the [approved reasons listed on the ACT Health website](#) or for compassionate purposes.

If a student wishes to leave the residence to complete their stay-at-home period elsewhere, they must plan to do so for the duration of the lockdown and must inform their head of residence. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they comply with all state and territory health restrictions.

Level 2 (enhanced stay-at-home orders)

Residences are placed under level 2 restrictions when the risk level in the ACT is deemed to be extreme (red) and there is significant community spread of COVID-19 in Canberra. These enhanced restrictions are to mitigate the risks and keep the residence safe.

All protocols remain the same as level 1 with the exception of the ones mentioned below.

Living in the residence

Residents may interact with their bubble and bubble buddies in the same COVID-safe way within the residence.

Visitors external to the bubble or residence will not be allowed.

Leaving the residence for essential reasons

Students are expected to remain in the residence as a default. The only approved reasons to leave are:

- To exercise outdoors with a maximum of two others in their bubble. A mask must be worn and students should not interact with anyone else outside of their bubble
- To access essential healthcare, including getting a COVID-19 vaccine or test
- In an emergency

A mask must be always worn when the student is out of their room.

Students are not allowed to leave for essential work, essential groceries or shopping. This is because movement in and out of the residence would put the entire residential community at significant risk.

Meal and food delivery

If residents are unable to access food or essentials through delivery, they should alert their head of residence. There are options available for the University to provide essential items to the students or for the residence to arrange a mutually accepted time for the student to leave.

Visitors

Residents are not allowed to leave the residence to visit other people or intimate partners. If residents have care responsibilities, residents will have to negotiate with their head of residence a COVID safe way to fulfil these responsibilities.

Level 3 (enhanced stay-at-home orders in quarantine)

If a close contact is detected in a residence, all students within the close contact's bubble will be declared secondary contacts and will be under level 3 restrictions. Students are not allowed to leave the residence except for the following approved reasons:

- To exercise outdoors only with their 'bubble buddy'. A mask must be worn, and students should not interact with anyone else outside of their bubble
- To get a COVID-19 test
- In an emergency, including needing emergency medical care

A mask must be worn at all times when the student is out of their room.

Students are not allowed to leave for any other reason including essential work, essential groceries or shopping, or for essential non-urgent medical reasons including COVID-19 vaccination. This is in line with the [Public Health \(Diagnosed People and Close Contacts\) Emergency Direction 2021 \(No 2\)](#).

All other protocols remain the same as level 2.

Level 4 (full quarantine)

Students who are identified as close or casual contacts, or secondary contacts from exposure outside of the residence, will have to quarantine in a self-contained or studio apartment. The only reason students are allowed to leave their apartment are the following approved reasons:

- To get a COVID-19 test
- In an emergency, including needing emergency medical care

Detailed protocols for managing students in full quarantine can be found in Annex 3 – Home-based quarantine in student accommodation

Infection control measures

Staff must practice good hand hygiene, follow physical distancing requirements, and avoid unnecessary contact where possible, except in the case of emergencies. If direct contact with residents is unavoidable, appropriate personal protective equipment must be worn as indicated below.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Masks must be worn at all times by staff and students. The exception to this is when eating or drinking, or when a student is in their own room.

General hygiene measures

Hand sanitiser will be provided at the entrance of the Residence, the reception area and near the lifts.

Health and wellbeing

All aspects of health support will be overseen by the Public Health Lead – COVID Response Office, who will also be the primary point of contact with ACT Health. It is the responsibility of the students' home residence to conduct welfare checks in accordance with Annex 2 of the residential protocols.

COVID-19 testing

Students should undergo a COVID-19 test if they develop any symptoms, no matter how mild. A negative test does not exempt anyone from complying with the requirements.

If students become a close or casual contact, they should be moved into quarantine and follow the advice published by ACT Health according to their situation. The COVID Response Office should be notified as soon as possible and extra cleaning may be advised.

Health monitoring of staff

All staff will be educated on the symptoms of COVID-19 and must immediately isolate and seek testing if they develop any symptoms. Staff must not come to work if they are unwell.

Management of individuals requiring quarantine

Residents who are identified as a close, casual or secondary contact through their exposure in the community, e.g. through communication with ACT Health officials or having been to a [listed close contact site](#), must inform their head of residence and fill in the [ANU ACT contact notification questionnaire](#). In accordance with ACT Health guidelines, the resident is required to follow health advice, complete an ACT Health Contact Declaration Form, quarantine, get tested for COVID-19, and remain in quarantine until further advised by ACT Health.

Detailed protocols for individuals in quarantine can be found in Annex 3 – Home based quarantine in student accommodation.

Close contacts

- Close contacts in individual apartments –
 - These students can quarantine in place for 14 days or until advised

- They must identify any other rooms they have spent time in, or individuals who have spent time in their rooms. These individuals are secondary contacts and will have to quarantine until the close contact's first or second negative test result is received.
 - The rest of the residence remain at existing restriction level.
- Close contacts in multi-share apartments –
 - These students must be moved to single apartments and quarantine there for 14 days or until advised
 - Their housemates are considered secondary contacts and will need to quarantine until the close contact tests negative.
 - The close contacts must also identify any other rooms they have spent time in, or individuals who have spent time in their rooms. These individuals are secondary contacts and will have to quarantine until the close contact's first or second negative test result is received.
 - The rest of the residence remain at existing restriction level.
- Close contact in dormitory style accommodation –
 - These students must be moved into single apartments and quarantine there for 14 days or until advised
 - The close contact's bubble will escalate into level 3 restrictions.

Casual contacts

- Casual contacts in individual apartments –
 - These students can quarantine in place until they receive a negative test result that is taken on or after day five from their exposure, or until advised
 - The rest of the residence remains at the existing restriction level.
- Casual contacts in multi-share apartments and dormitory style accommodation –
 - These students must be moved to single apartments and quarantine until they receive a negative test result that is taken on or after day five from their exposure or until advised
 - The rest of the residence remain at existing restriction level.
 - If the whole residence is considered a casual contact, the residence will escalate into level 3 restrictions

Secondary contacts

Residents who are identified as secondary contacts through exposure in the community will have to quarantine until the close contact tests negative. Secondary contacts in multi-share apartments and dormitory style accommodation must be moved to a single apartment to quarantine.

General health support

Attending essential medical or healthcare needs is a valid reason for the individual to leave their room while under level 1 and level 2 restrictions.

Mental health

ANU will support mental health and wellbeing as required.

Fundamental to the Model's approach to maintaining good mental health while in lockdown is the opportunity to feel a sense of community, purpose and social connectedness, both online and as a member of a small quarantine group.

Measures to maintain positive mental health will include a programme of online activities arranged by the residences and access to reliable Wi-Fi.

Residences are responsible to maintain regular one-on-one contact with each student, including via daily welfare checks. This will be done using dedicated student welfare specialists and trained student peer mentors.

As detailed above, a series of online engagement programs, both educational and for entertainment, will also be provided to ensure students are kept occupied during this period.

In addition to these programs, students will have access to peer support through linking each quarantine group to a Senior Resident or Student Leader and the use of TalkCampus, a multilingual global application that allows students to chat with other students anywhere in the world,

Students who have concerns about mental health or wellbeing will be able to book an online counselling session with a mental health provider from the ANU Counselling Centre via email at counselling.centre@anu.edu.au or phone: 02 6125 2442.

Other free support can be provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via ANU Wellbeing and Support Line on 1300 050 327 or via SMS Text message service on 0488 884 170.

Support and assistance is also available through the Respectful Relationships Unit respect@anu.edu.au.



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University COVID-19 Protocols for Residential Facilities

Annex 4: Management of students under Stay-at-Home orders in student accommodation

Last updated: 6 August 2021

Contacts

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Overview

This appendix to the *Residential Guidelines and Protocols at ANU campuses - COVID-19 Response* has been developed specifically to deal with the management of students under stay at home orders (SAHO) in ANU student accommodation. The document is applicable to any residential hall, Lodge or affiliate hall linked to the ANU.

The key references utilised for the development of this document was the [ACT Health COVID-19 webpage](#) and the ACT Health Factsheet – *COVID-19: Information for accommodation providers hosting people in quarantine* (attachment A).

SAHO is used to separate a person who may have been exposed to a communicable disease (such as COVID-19) from the rest of the community. This is to protect the community while waiting to see if the person becomes unwell. These restrictions are imposed by ACT Health for individuals who have returned from COVID-affected area as defined by a Public Health Direction,

SAHO is similar but distinct to quarantine and self-isolation. Under SAHO, students in residences have more flexibility and can leave their living area for five specific reasons:

- To exercise outdoors for up to one hour each day
- To undertake essential work
- To attend medical or healthcare needs including compassionate requirements
- To attend a facility to receive COVID-19 vaccination
- Due to an emergency

Risks

Key to this protocol is a proactive approach to risk mitigation. Risks include:

- Public Health risks related to COVID-19; specifically, the risk of importing a case of COVID-19 into the ACT and the potential of initiating a local outbreak.
- Mental health risks associated with restrictions to movement for a period of time.

Types of accommodation

Types of student accommodation that can be used for SAHO include the following:

- Individual studio or single room apartments – students must only leave their apartments for one of the specified reasons above.
- Multi-bedroom apartments – individuals will have their own room but will use shared spaces such as bathrooms, kitchens and lounge areas. Multishare Apartments should not be used for SAHO unless everyone in the multishare apartment is under SAHO from the same area.
- Dormitory style accommodation - individuals will have their own room but will need to be allocated their own bathroom that is not used by people not also under SAHO. Residents may be designated a living space to be shared with others under the same SAHO from the same COVID affected area as determined by the Head of Residence. Students who share a living space form a SAHO group and individuals who are not part of the same SAHO group must not enter the space unless in an emergency.

Most students completing a SAHO will be able to do this in their usual residence, however some may need to be moved to another room on the ANU campus if circumstances require it.

Preparation for SAHO

Pre-departure

Students will be provided with information about what to bring with them. This includes the requirement to bring a personal supply of masks. Students should also consider bringing all of their required medications, optical aids and other health requirements for the duration of their SAHO period.

Students must notify the ANU COVID Response Office (covidresponseoffice@anu.edu.au) if they have any COVID-19 like symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or are advised that they are close contacts of someone who is COVID-19 positive prior to travel. In these circumstances they will not be allowed to travel until they have tested negative and/or fulfilled any quarantine or self-isolation requirements.

Students must sign a Behavioural Agreement to confirm that they will comply with all COVID-safe and other required behaviours throughout the process including during SAHO. They will be informed that breaches in compliance will equate to a breach in Student Conduct Rules, which may result in their removal from student accommodation for the whole of 2021 and other disciplinary action.

In transit

All modes of transport are acceptable to come to the ACT. This includes private cars or being dropped off by others (for example, parents, guardians, friends and partners). If their drivers are from a defined COVID affected area they will be considered in transit and will not need an exemption from ACT Health provided they do not leave the car while in the ACT, including during drop off.

If travelling by air, bus, train, rideshare or taxi, students should behave in a COVID-safe way at all times. This includes avoiding direct contact with other people (including other passengers, drivers and transport staff), coughing and sneezing into their elbow, washing their hands before and after they travel, and wearing a mask at all times while in transit, apart from when eating and drinking.

In the ACT

If a SAHO is declared while the student is already in the ACT, the student should immediately travel back to their room to begin their SAHO. They can do this by rideshare or taxi and should behave in a COVID-safe way at all times.

Compliance and Security

This ANU model for conducting SAHO in student accommodation is based on tiered compliance and security approach through:

- creating a positive and supportive environment
- a behavioural approach to ensure individual compliance through the requirement to commit to set of COVID-safe principles, and harsh punishments for those who breach these principles, up to an including revoking their on-campus accommodation offer for the remaining period on their contract.
- monitoring of compliance with restrictions by staff and Senior Residences.

- ensuring a good understanding of the difference between quarantine, self-isolation, and SAHO so the residential campus community understands the level of risk a good understanding of the difference between quarantine, self-isolation, and SAHO so the residential campus community understands the level of risk

Positive environment

As detailed in *The National Review of Hotel Quarantine* (Halton Review), the key to maintaining a positive experience in quarantine, and by extension SAHO, is to create a sense of routine or a 'structured day'. This will not only improve mental health but will mean that students are less likely to try to escape from quarantine as they will be kept fully occupied by a range of activities.

In addition to health and mental health support detailed below, residences will organise a programme of activities for students in SAHO.

Students who are under SAHO with others, in apartments or dormitories, will be able to socialise in a COVID-safe way with their SAHO group within shared spaces. Specifically, students will be required to:

- perform hand-hygiene prior to entering shared spaces and perform hand-hygiene after leaving shared spaces
- maintain 1.5 metres physical distancing where possible from other students in the shared spaces
- wear a mask when in the shared space (unless they are eating) and when doing light exercise. If undertaking moderate to heavy exercise no mask is needed.

This will also assist in creating a positive experience as well as fostering group compliance. This is especially important as many of these students will be new to ANU.

Individual Compliance

As indicated above, students must sign a Behavioural Agreement to confirm that they will comply with the rules and regulations, and will behave in a COVID-safe way during their affected period.

They will be informed that breeches in compliance up to and including leaving quarantine without authorisation will equate to a breach in Student Conduct Rules, which may result in their removal from student accommodation on a permanent basis and other disciplinary action.

A strong focus will be placed on COVID-19 compliance at all times, including wearing of face masks when leaving individual rooms (when not eating), keeping their distance from others, and the practice of good hand hygiene. Socialisation will ensure that peer group pressure is also applied to reinforce compliance.

Other rules will include:

- Students will not be allowed in the bedrooms of others, even if within the same SAHO group.
- There will be a no alcohol policy for the duration of the SAHO period.

Failure to Comply

If a resident fails to comply with restrictions and general COVID-19 protocols as advised by the residence, the Residence will view this as a breach of

- Section 3 (g) of the Occupancy Agreement where residents are required "to comply

with lawful notices and reasonable directions from the University”

- Section 3.1 (a) - requires occupants to not “intentionally cause injury or harm to another person”
- “the Rules of the Australian National University” as per section 3.3 (b).

Failure to comply with these obligations by failing to adhere to the overarching *Residential Guidelines and Protocols* and this protocol will result in termination of the resident’s agreement as per Section 3.2 of the Occupancy Agreement.

Disciplinary matters can also be escalated to the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) who will institute disciplinary actions in accordance with ANU established procedures for students for non-compliance as outlined at

https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2018L00319/Html/Text#_Toc508885910

Due to the seriousness of breaching quarantine and general COVID-19 protocols, any breach by a resident will be deemed misconduct. It is misconduct if a student engages in conduct that:

is dishonest, unethical, or otherwise demonstrates a lack of integrity or a lack of respect for the safety or wellbeing of other members of the University community; or

intentionally, recklessly or negligently causes risk or danger to the health or safety of another member of the University community.

If, in a case to which section 12(1) (powers of, and action by, Vice-Chancellor) applies, the Vice-Chancellor is satisfied that the respondent is likely to have engaged in conduct that is misconduct, the Vice-Chancellor may, before an inquiry is held into the conduct:

deny the respondent access to all or any University facilities, to all University premises, any University premises or any part of University premises, or to all or any activities conducted by or on behalf of the University, for a specified period or until the inquiry has been completed and its finding dealt with under this instrument, whichever happens first.

Monitoring and Reinforcing Compliance

Internal compliance will be monitored by Residence staff. Mechanisms to monitor compliance include:

- Movement will be controlled by the building access card system
- Random checks by staff that residents are in their room or designated living area (as applicable).
- Students will be encouraged to advise the on-site staff if another student is observed outside of their designated living area for any reason other than a building evacuation
- Students under SAHO who need to leave their designated living area for approved purposes must inform and have approval confirmed by their Head of Residence in advance.
- Compliance will be reinforced by signage and during daily welfare checks.
- Social media groups will be created for those in SAHO and daily compliance reminders will be promulgated via these means
- Hand sanitiser, cleaning products, masks and gloves will be provided for use in an emergency.

Security

The building is controlled by access cards. Fire exits will be checked on a regular basis and monitored by CCTV.

A network of CCTV monitors cover the external building including all exits. External perimeter patrols by security guards will occur outside of normal business hours.

Infection Control Measures

Staff must practice good hand hygiene, follow physical distancing requirements, and avoid contact with SAHO students where possible, except in the case of emergencies. If direct contact with residents is unavoidable, appropriate personal protective equipment must be worn as indicated below.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Students will be asked to bring their own cloth face masks and a supply of gloves.

Surgical style face masks will be provided as a backup. Gloves will also be available. Instructions on safely donning and doffing PPE are provided as part of the induction material provided to students.

Staff who are making deliveries must wear a mask and gloves at all times and practice hand hygiene immediately after removing their gloves.

General Hygiene Measures

Hand sanitiser will be provided at the entrance of the Residence, the reception area and near the lifts.

Operational Matters

The ANU has considerable experience managing individuals in quarantine, self-isolation or SAHO. Overarching protocols pertaining to this can be found in the *Residential Guidelines and Protocols* document, however more specific detail, including for students in accommodation with shared spaces, is provided below.

Students will be advised in writing of these protocols as part of their preparation information.

Where practicable, students under the same SAHO from the same COVID affected area who live together in a dormitory style on the same floor or in the same apartment can form a SAHO group where they will be allowed to share some facilities and common areas as detailed below.

Two important rules of thumb to make this practice safe are:

- There should be no mixing of students who are under the same SAHO from an area and those who are not or are under SAHO from another area.
- Students should wear a mask when leaving their individual rooms

Check In

Students under SAHO will be asked to wear a mask throughout the check-in process, until they enter their room. Staff should also wear a face mask if they will be in the vicinity of the guests. COVID-safe procedures should be in place, such as not touching the outside of the face mask and keeping a distance of 1.5 metres between staff and students.

Students will be encouraged to manage their own luggage. If required, a luggage trolley can be provided to the student who should be instructed to leave the trolley outside their room when finished.

If staff need to assist with luggage, including items that are to be put into storage or transported to the student's allocated room elsewhere, they must perform hand hygiene and then put on disposable gloves before handling luggage or the luggage trolley. The luggage can then be transported by staff. The trolley should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after use. After handling luggage or cleaning the trolley, gloves are to be removed and disposed of into a waste bin and hand hygiene performed again. Gloves must be changed, and hand hygiene performed between each group of students.

Students will be reminded to avoid touching surfaces and objects on the way through the facility on arrival. They must not share a lift with anyone other than people within their SAHO group.

Meal and food delivery

Meal options include ordering food or groceries online or, in the case of accommodation in catered halls, meals prepared in the Residence's kitchen. Students under SAHO are strongly discouraged from going out to buy groceries and should seek help from a friend or order online instead.

Meals, shopping or groceries ordered online will be delivered to Residential Hall reception. Students will be asked to ensure all deliveries occur during normal business hours. The number of deliveries each day should be limited where possible, with students living in apartments utilising fridges to store food and microwaves to reheat.

Protocols for delivery of food or other items is as follows:

- When the items arrive at reception, the staff will contact the student over the telephone or via email to arrange a drop off or pick up time.
- Staff in appropriate PPE will deliver the meals or groceries to the door of the apartment or common area and will either knock on the door or send a WhatsApp message to students. Food delivered to a common area can be picked up by the student at a mutually arranged time. The student must wear a mask at all times and avoid touching other items.

Waste management

Students can remove their rubbish as per normal as long as they wear a mask when leaving their room.

Cleaning

Students will be responsible for cleaning their own rooms and apartments during their stay, including frequently touched areas and surfaces. Antibacterial wipes and multipurpose cleaner with disinfectant and paper towel will be made available.

Individuals who are sharing common spaces with a SAHO should develop a cleaning roster to ensure their space remains clean.

Laundry

Students under SAHO can be rostered to use the laundry facilities within the residence at specific times. During this time students who are not subject to SAHO are not be allowed into the laundry area. Cleaning must take place before other students are allowed to use the space,

and students should wear a mask at all times.

Leaving for essential reasons

Students under SAHO may leave their dedicated living area for approved purposes. The Head of Hall must be informed whenever a student intends to leave, except in an emergency. This is to ensure that if any person speaks to the Residence about a student not complying with the SAHO, the Head of Hall is able to verify their movements are within the approved reasons.

Reasons to leave the dedicated living area are:

- Essential work. Students who need to leave for this reason must obtain advanced permission from their Head of Residence.
- Exercise outdoors for up to one hour a day.
- Attend medical or healthcare needs, including compassionate requirements
- Attend a facility to receive COVID-19 vaccination
- In an emergency

Students are strongly discouraged from leaving to shop for groceries. If possible, they should seek help from a friend to deliver groceries or order online.

When a student under SAHO leaves their room, they must wear a mask at all times.

Students are not allowed to leave their rooms for studies, lectures or tutorials. All studies should be done online. If it cannot be done online, the student should contact the lecturer or course convenor for advice on course-related work they can undertake remotely and arrange for a catch up session after the SAHO period is over.

Essential work is one of the reasons to leave home. If a student believes their work is essential, they should obtain the permission of their employer and discuss it with the COVID Response Office. Hospitality and retail are not considered essential. The ACT Health provides more information about essential work on their [website](#).

Maintenance requirements

No staff should enter rooms during the SAHO period except in an emergency.

Where possible, if urgent maintenance is required, the student will be moved to another space while wearing a mask and the room will be cleaned before the maintenance worker is permitted to enter.

If the student cannot be moved, maintenance staff will wear full PPE (droplet and contact precautions). Donning and doffing of PPE will be supervised by residence staff.

A safe distance of at least 1.5 metres must be maintained between staff and students at all times, and students should wear a mask. Students in multi-room apartments will be asked to remain in a room separate from the maintenance staff (e.g. they should remain in their room if a maintenance staff member is in the shared area).

Fire Alarms and building evacuations

If there is a Fire Alarm, the standard protocols must be followed. Students will be required, where possible, to don a mask before evacuating. Additional masks and gloves will be available if required.

Students under SAHO will be in a separate evacuation area at least 4 metres from all other residents.

Emergency Response

In the event of a medical emergency, ANU staff and/or students should dial 000 and administer first aid using appropriate PPE. The 000 operator should be advised that the individual is under SAHO so that appropriate COVID-safe measures are in place.

ACT Health and the Public Health Lead – COVID Response Office should also be notified as soon as possible.

Health and Wellbeing

All aspects of health support will be overseen by the Public Health Lead – COVID Response Office, who will also be the primary point of contact with ACT Health. It is the responsibility of the students' home residence to conduct daily welfare checks.

COVID-19 Testing

Students should undergo a COVID-19 test if they develop any symptoms, no matter how mild. Students in residences which are shared with non-SAHO residents should also undergo a COVID-19 test at the start of their SAHO period to reduce the risk to other residents. A negative test does not exempt anyone from complying with the SAHO requirements.

If students become a close-contact during their SAHO period, they should be moved into quarantine and follow the advice published by ACT Health according to their situation. The COVID Response Office should be notified as soon as possible and extra cleaning may be advised.

Health Monitoring of Staff

All staff will be educated on the symptoms of COVID-19 and must immediately isolate and seek testing if they develop any symptoms. Staff must not come to work if they are unwell.

Management of a positive case

Students with confirmed, probable or suspected COVID-19 and their close contacts will be managed in accordance with CDNA and ACT Health guidelines. This includes the following:

- Students who develop COVID-19 like symptoms will be tested for COVID-19. ACT Health will be consulted as to whether the student needs to be moved to a separate single room apartment while they are awaiting a test result.
- All other students sharing a space with the affected person will also self-isolate within their own rooms as much as possible until test results are known.
- Positive cases will be immediately transferred into a single room apartment in a separate accommodation area, and wearing PPE during transfer. ACT Health will be consulted prior to their transfer. A number of one-bedroom apartments will be kept available to be utilised for this purpose.
- All other students within the group of the positive case will be considered as close contacts and will be tested. These students will be required to extend their period of quarantine for 14 days after their last contact with the student while they were infectious.
- ANU has pre-existing plans to manage larger outbreaks of COVID-19 in student residences. These are available at: <https://www.anu.edu.au/covid-19-advice/our-covid-safe-community/directives-guidelines-and-resources>

- ACT Health will provide direction regarding the public health management of positive cases, suspected cases, and close contacts, including on required extensions to the quarantine period.
- ACT Health will also be consulted on any other medical or mental health problems that arise during quarantine where removal from quarantine and hospitalisation may be required.

General Health Support

Attending medical or healthcare needs is a valid reason for the individual to leave their room while under SAHO.

Mental Health

ANU will support mental health and wellbeing as required.

Fundamental to the Model's approach to maintaining good mental health while in SAHO is the opportunity to feel a sense of community, purpose and social connectedness, both online and as a member of a small quarantine group.

Measures to maintain positive mental health will include a programme of activities arranged by the residences both online and within SAHO groups and access to reliable Wi-Fi.

Residences are responsible to maintain regular one-on-one contact with each student, including via daily welfare checks. This will be done using dedicated student welfare specialists and trained student peer mentors.

As detailed above, a series of online engagement programs, both educational and for entertainment, will also be provided to ensure students are kept occupied during this period.

In addition to these programs, students will have access to peer support through linking each quarantine group to a Senior Resident or Student Leader and the use of TalkCampus, a multilingual global application that allows students to chat with other students anywhere in the world,

Students who have concerns about mental health or wellbeing will be able to book an online counselling session with a mental health provider from the ANU Counselling Centre via email at counselling.centre@anu.edu.au or phone: 02 6125 2442.

Other free support can be provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via ANU Wellbeing and Support Line on 1300 050 327 or via SMS Text message service on 0488 884 170.

Support and assistance is also available through the Respectful Relationships Unit respect@anu.edu.au.

From: [Tracy Smart](#)
To: [Smith, Louise](#)
Cc: [Huet, Jodie \(Health\)](#); [Edward O'Daly](#); [Nicki Middleton](#); [Susan Helyar](#); [Patricia Teh](#)
Subject: Management of Residences
Date: Monday, 16 August 2021 3:42:10 PM
Attachments: [210816 List of close contacts in residences.xlsx](#)
Importance: High

Louise

Thanks for your call today. The purpose of this email is to update you on the current situation and seek your response on the items below via email (but I am also happy to discuss).

To make it easier to respond I ask that you:

1. Endorse our management of our current close contacts in residences
2. Endorse the new approach we discussed on the phone today – “enhanced stay at home”
3. Endorse our proposal to put all dorm style residences into enhanced stay at home until Thursday to minimise risk and increase certainty
4. Endorse our proposal to use Davey Lodge to decant close contacts if a student tests positive.

1. Current close contacts (CC) in Residences

Since we spoke, we have been notified of several more close contacts (CCs) – see attached for this current list. On this basis we have initiated the following:

- All have been put into single self-contained apartments
- Wamburun, Bruce, B&G, Burgmann, and Fenner have been put into the new arrangements we have discussed today, which I am calling “Enhanced stay at home orders (SAHO)” – see below.
- One student is in their own apartment at Lena Karmel and will remain so. We have not elevated this residence to enhanced SAHO as per our discussions last Friday and the approach outlined below

2. New approach

I have attempted to put our agreed new approach to CC management in writing below. Please let me know if you are happy with this (noting a couple of questions/changes below).

- CC in an individual apartment – they quarantine in place for 14 days or until advised.
 - They identify any other rooms they have spent time in, or individuals who have spent time in their rooms – these individuals also have to quarantine but only until negative result is received
 - Rest of residence remains on stay at home orders (SAHO) – ie general lockdown rules
- CC in multi-share apartment – they are moved to a single apartment and quarantine there for 14 days or until advised
 - Housemates remain in apartment but need to quarantine. **Louise – seek your advice but was assuming this might have to be for the full 14 days ie similar to a household.**

CC in dormitory style accommodation - they are moved to a single apartment and quarantine there for 14 days or until advised

- Residence goes into **enhanced SAHO** using a living group/bubble/pod approach
- Bubble groups to be no more than ~25 (note this will vary between residences) **(changed to 25 for practical reasons)**
- Rules (again must be adapted for each residence with safety in)
 - Stay in their room as much as possible
 - Can use shared bathroom AND kitchen facilities (depending on size and practicality) with their bubble group wearing masks, being COVID-safe, cleaning after use
 - Can potentially use dining halls in bubble group depending on size and practicality
 - May exercise with one other person from their bubble group but must wear a mask and **MUST NOT** interact with anyone else during this time.
- Normal SAHO – similar to above but
 - Can go out for other essential reasons (shopping etc)
 - Can do essential work IAW Public Health Directions (we have been advised by our lawyers that we can't stop them)

3. A proposal

Given the current heightened risk level in the ACT and to increase certainty, we are **proposing to put ALL dorm style residences into enhanced SAHO until at least Thursday** and then reassess. Lodges will remain on general SAHO. The logic behind this is as follows:

- It further mitigates risk by reducing exposure of students to the broader community
- It temporarily resolves the essential work concerns (nothing that we will still release anyone who is needed in the broader health effort)
- It gives more certainty for students instead of going in and out of different statuses
- It allows us to better plan logistic and wellbeing support to students
- It simplifies our comms
- It reduces the amount of advice I need to seek from you and thus frees up your workload.

4. Actions if we have a positive case

Yesterday I sent a non-urgent email about our [residence outbreak plan](#) that we will activate if we get a positive case. Just to let you know, we are preparing Davey Lodge in case we need to decant a large number of individuals who are identified as close contacts should we get a case – for example a “living bubble” of up to 25 people. Again – please let me know via this email if you are happy with this.

Cheers

Tracy

Professor Tracy Smart AO

BMBS, MPH, MA, Dip Avmed, FRACMA, FACAsM, FAsMA, FCDSS, FACHSM (Hon)

Air Vice-Marshal (ret.)

Professor, Military and Aerospace Medicine (College of Health and Medicine)
Public Health Lead – COVID Response Office (Student and University Experience)

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The Australian National University
ACT 2600 Australia

T: +61261255964

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From: [Smith, Louise](#)
To: [Tracy Smart](#)
Cc: [Huet, Jodie \(Health\)](#); [Edward O'Daly](#); [Nicki Middleton](#); [Susan Helyar](#); [Patricia Teh](#)
Subject: RE: Management of Residences
Date: Tuesday, 17 August 2021 1:31:51 AM

OFFICIAL

Hi Tracy,

This is in line with our discussions today about management of close contact and secondary contacts moving forward to ease the pressure on students, staff and PH.

I have made some comments below in blue.

If you feel that it would be easier for ANU to do enhanced SAHO until Thursday that is a decision for ANU not PH.

Thank you

Louise

From: Tracy Smart <tracy.smart@anu.edu.au>
Sent: Monday, 16 August 2021 3:42 PM
To: Smith, Louise <Louise.Smith@act.gov.au>
Cc: Huet, Jodie (Health) <Jodie.Huet@act.gov.au>; Edward O'Daly <edward.odaly@anu.edu.au>; Nicki Middleton <Nicki.Middleton@anu.edu.au>; Susan Helyar <Susan.Helyar@anu.edu.au>; Patricia Teh <Patricia.Teh@anu.edu.au>
Subject: Management of Residences
Importance: High

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

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[Davey Lodge is a good option for close contacts if the cases has been in the residences. I will look at the proposal today/tomorrow.](#)

Cheers

Tracy

Professor Tracy Smart AO
BMBS, MPH, MA, Dip Avmed, FRACMA, FACAsM, FAsMA, FCDSS, FACHSM (Hon)
Air Vice-Marshal (ret.)

Professor, Military and Aerospace Medicine (College of Health and Medicine)
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From: [Susan Helyar](mailto:Susan.Helyar@anu.edu.au)
To: residential.heads@anu.edu.au; ["residential.deans@anu.edu.au"](mailto:residential.deans@anu.edu.au)
Cc: [COVID Response Office](#); [Deputy Vice-Chancellor \(Student & University Experience\)](#)
Subject: Update for Tuesday Morning
Date: Tuesday, 17 August 2021 8:30:14 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[enhanced SAHO message to residents.docx](#)
[Meal arrangements Fenner, Toad, Wamburun.docx](#)
[image004.jpg](#)

Dear Colleagues

It has been another wild week as we went into lockdown, managed the changing expectations of ACT Health and supported our residential communities through very difficult circumstances. Thank you to everyone for your hard work, your commitment to students and your care for each other.

I have provided below a draft of a message from Ian Anderson that will come to you tomorrow, for distribution to students who are actually in room. This message will be going out at the same time as the ANU updates the campus community on the covid alert level and ongoing precautions against COVID-19.

As you know it has been very difficult to navigate the changing requirements for covid safety as the ACT lockdown commenced, progressed and changed in response to the risks of COVID-19 exposure and transmission. In order to reduce uncertainty and stabilise operations, a number of measures will be put in place, at least until Thursday 19 August:

- All residences will operate under enhanced Stay At Home Order arrangements. I have attached here a document outlining Enhanced SAHO, with some yellow bits I am discussing with Tracy
- I have drafted a letter verifying students in ANU residences are not able to go out for work in roles other than health care, child care and contact tracing, for students to use with their employers (to prevent them being fired) and to Centrelink (to verify eligibility for the Emergency Payment) and asked the ANU Exec to consider as part of the wider suite of resources being offered to students
- I have arranged meal deliveries for the residences with kitchen spaces that are not adequate to enable both social distancing and timely access to kitchen facilities. These are Fenner, Toad and Wamburun. On 17 Aug Fenner and Wamburun will get Brekky and dinner. From 18 Aug onwards Toad, Fenner and Wamburun Residents will get a daily delivery of a hot dinner and breakfast pack for the next day. Residents will have designated access to their kitchens during the day for lunch. (see more details in attached doc)
- B&G, Lodges and Grad House will continue to be totally self catered.

Longer term, we are setting up infrastructure to support ongoing operations of the residences:

- The F&S team has set up a food and supplies storage and distribution site in Manning Clarke Theatre. They have also facilitated a team of volunteers from across ANU to assist with packing and delivering meals to Halls. They will have meals on hand for if there are urgent needs that arise due to further disruptions eg a residence goes into Outbreak Management
- I have sought assistance with access to casual staff to provide backfill for teams so staff can take time off or can access staff to meet surge capacity needs. I am expecting to hear more about the options available in the next couple of days

Signing off with enormous gratitude and respect,
Susan

Susan Helyar (she/hers)
Director, Residential Experience

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Email: susan.helyar@anu.edu.au

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Dear residents,

Thank you for the calm and cooperative way you have followed the ACT Government's guidelines and directions in response to the territory's lockdown, which has now been extended until Thursday 2 September.

I'm writing to you about some updates about a new approach to managing close contacts which we have developed with ACT Health, which will continue to keep everyone safe, but minimise disruption to your lives and make the next few days more predictable and stable.

Like many other Canberrans, a number of our residents have been identified as close contacts since the start of the lockdown. As many of you know, in the last few days as an additional precaution, at the request of ACT Health, the close contact's entire hall was placed under additional restrictions while the close contact students awaited their test result. As soon as a negative result was received, the hall went back to normal lockdown restrictions. Unfortunately, some of you have had to do this more than once.

From today **Tuesday 12 noon**, initially until this Thursday at 5pm we have agreed a new approach with ACT Health. All residences will move to 'enhanced stay-at-home orders'. These are less restrictive than the strict rules over the weekend, and more like the arrangements we began testing in some residences yesterday. This way we can satisfy public health requirements for

dealing with a close contact on an ongoing basis and you won't need to do anything different if there is a close contact in your residence.

Your residence will tell you exactly how these arrangements look for you, but in summary you'll be part of a pod or bubble with other residents sharing kitchen/dining and bathroom facilities. You'll be allowed to exercise with a buddy, but otherwise you will spend most of your time in your room and need to wear a mask and follow other COVID-safe behaviours when you're not in your room.

As well as looking after yourselves during this challenging time, you also need to regularly check ACT Health's list of [exposure sites](#) and watch the ACT Government's daily COVID-19 briefings to ensure you follow the latest health advice and directions

We will keep you updated in the coming days.

Wellbeing support

During challenging times, many people find it helpful to talk with someone. We encourage you to reach out to one of the [services available for you](#) to access remotely at no cost. This includes the ANU Wellbeing and Support Line, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

ANU Wellbeing and Support Line	Confidential and free personal crisis counselling available 24/7 via phone call and text message. Free for ANU students for support with situational stress, emotional difficulties and mental health concerns.	Phone: 1300 050 327 SMS Text message service: 0488 884 170
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You may also want to connect with one of the ANU student peer-support services:

- The ANU Thrive team: <https://www.anu.edu.au/students/contacts/anu-thrive>
- TalkCampus: <https://www.talkcampus.io/australian-national-university>

Staying Connected

The ANU has brought together a whole range of programs and supports in one place so you can find something that will work for you. This site includes resources to support your wellbeing and strengthen your academic engagement during this difficult period:

<https://www.anu.edu.au/students/communities-events/virtual-connections>

These are stressful and uncertain times, so hang in there and ask for help if you need it. We're here to help you get through this lockdown.

Look after yourselves and stay safe,

Ian

Professor Ian Anderson AO

FAFPHM, FASSA, FAAHMS

Palawa Lutrawita

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student and University Experience)

The Australian National University, Canberra | CRICOS Provider: 00120C | ABN: 52 234 063

From: [Deputy Vice-Chancellor \(Student & University Experience\)](#)
To: [Leesa Croke](#); [Arthy, Kareena](#)
Cc: Matt.Mison@act.gov.au; [Steven Fanner](#); [Tracy Smart](#)
Subject: Update from ANU
Date: Tuesday, 17 August 2021 6:41:58 PM

Colleagues

Hope you are all holding up.

I wanted to loop back to give you an quick update. This afternoon we have commenced implementing an 'enhanced Stay at Home' strategy across our student residences from today. We have discussed this approach with colleagues in ACT health. The note that we sent out to our Students in on campus Residences is copied below. We are hoping that this provides a better quality of life for students while we continue to work with ACT health as they roll out contact tracing of secondary contacts.

For the University, a Critical Incident Management Structure remains in place. At this point it is a light touch coordination mechanisms. Most of response to the ACT lockdown, for which we have been planning for some time, is being led through BAU structures.

Late today I revised our ANU risk level against our pre-existing COVID risk framework. We are now at extreme. Most of the measures associated with the 'extreme' level have actually been in place since lockdown began. We have advised the ANU community that new level of alert in itself should not be cause for any additional concern. We have taken the opportunity to reinforce the Chief Ministers message at the presser today: You should ask before you leave your home: 'do I really need to do this today?'

s22

Regards, Ian

New stay-at-home arrangements in residences from today

Dear residents,

Thank you for your leadership and the calm and cooperative way you have followed the ACT Government's guidelines and directions in response to the territory's lockdown.

The lockdown has been extended until Thursday 2 September.

We have developed a new approach to managing contacts in the residences, which will continue to keep everyone safe, but minimise disruption to your lives and make the next few days more predictable and stable.

Like many other Canberrans, a number of our residents have been identified as close contacts

since the start of the lockdown. As many of you know, in the last few days as an additional precaution, at the request of ACT Health, the close contact's entire hall was placed under additional restrictions while the close contact students awaited their test result. As soon as a negative result was received, the hall went back to normal lockdown restrictions. Unfortunately, some of you have had to do this more than once.

Following discussions with ACT Health, we are implementing a new approach and **from today all residences will move to 'enhanced stay-at-home orders'**. This will help manage the increased risk the current outbreak poses to the residences, and remove the uncertainty of rules in residences changing back and forward as new close contacts emerge. These arrangements are less restrictive than the strict rules over the weekend, and more like the arrangements we began testing in some residences yesterday. This way we can satisfy public health requirements for dealing with a close contact on an ongoing basis and you won't need to do anything different if there is a close contact in your residence. Critically it will help reduce the risk of COVID getting into our residences.

Your residence will tell you exactly how these arrangements look for you and your residence, but in summary you will move to pods or bubbles with other residents sharing kitchen and bathroom facilities. You'll be allowed to leave your room to use these facilities and to exercise with a buddy, but otherwise you will stay in your room and need to wear a mask and follow other COVID-safe behaviours when you're not in your room.

We will review these arrangements and update you on Friday.

As well as looking after yourselves during this challenging time, you also need to regularly check ACT Health's list of [exposure sites](#) and watch the ACT Government's daily COVID-19 briefings to ensure you follow the latest health advice and directions.

We will keep you updated in the coming days.

Staying connected and supporting your wellbeing

We have brought together a whole range of programs and supports in one place so you can find something that will work for you. [This site](#) includes resources to support your wellbeing and strengthen your academic engagement during this difficult period.

During challenging times, many people also find it helpful to talk with someone. We encourage you to reach out to one of the [services available for you](#) to access remotely at no cost. This includes the ANU Wellbeing and Support Line, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

ANU Wellbeing and Support Line	Confidential and free personal crisis counselling available 24/7 via phone call and text message. Free for ANU students for support with situational stress, emotional difficulties and mental health concerns.	Phone: 1300 050 327 SMS Text message service: 0488 884 170
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You may also want to connect with one of the ANU student peer-support services:

- The ANU Thrive team: <https://www.anu.edu.au/students/contacts/anu-thrive>
- TalkCampus: <https://www.talkcampus.io/australian-national-university>

These are stressful and uncertain times, so hang in there and ask for help if you need it. We're here to help you get through this lockdown.

Look after yourselves and stay safe,

Ian

Professor Ian Anderson AO

FAFPHM, FASSA, FAAHMS

Palawa Lutrawita

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student and University Experience)

The Australian National University, Canberra | CRICOS Provider: 00120C | ABN: 52 234 063

ENHANCED SAHO MESSAGE TO RESIDENTS

Dear RESIDENT,

Good News! Today ACT Health and the ANU Covid Response Office have negotiated an enhanced Stay at Home Order requirement for Residences at ANU. This means that despite a close contact within the residence we can maintain some of the standard SAH Orders imposed on all ACT residents.

From now, when a close contact occurs, the Hall will move to **Enhanced Stay-at-Home Orders**.

Conditions of Enhanced Stay-at-Home Orders include:

- You cannot leave the residence for shopping or vaccinations. Your residence team will work with you on ensuring there is an ordering system in place for urgent purchases eg personal items, prescriptions;
- You will be placed in a geographical bubble groups of between 15-25 residents;
- With your geographical bubble groups you will be able to:
 - o Use your allocated bathroom facilities,
 - o Use the kitchen at a rostered time for meal preparation or dining hall for designated meal delivery times
 - o Eat one meal every few days in the dining hall in designated socially distanced seating arrangements
 - o Exercise with one other person from your geographical bubble group (must wear a mask and must not interact with anyone else during this time);
- Outside your room you must wear a mask and practice COVID-safe behaviours at all times.
- Common rooms remain off limits – including the kitchen outside your rostered/scheduled times.
- Choose one person in your bubble to be your buddy. You MAY NOT enter their rooms.
 - o Your buddy must be within your geographical bubble.

For some residences, there may also be meal delivery services, depending on the suitability of kitchen facilities to meet the needs of residents during the enhanced SAHO.

These provisions are in lieu of a full isolation, as we have experienced over the weekend and again this morning. We need your compliance so that we can maintain amenability with the ACTH orders and avoid future Whole-of-Hall Isolations. If there is a lack of compliance with these enhanced SAHOs, it is likely that future close contacts will trigger another isolation for the hall.

The COVID Response Office will continue to work closely with ACT Health as this situation unfolds.

We sincerely apologise for yet more changes to the order imposed on the Hall. Unfortunately we are not out of the woods yet with the outbreak and we need to continue to do what we can to keep the campus and broader community safe. These enhanced provisions should ease the personal burden. Thank you for being so understanding through this difficult time and please let us know if there is anything we can do for you.

Cheers

Tracy

Professor Tracy Smart AO

BMBS, MPH, MA, Dip Avmed, FRACMA, FACAsM, FAsMA, FCDSS, FACHSM (Hon)
Air Vice-Marshal (ret.)

Professor, Military and Aerospace Medicine (College of Health and Medicine)

Public Health Lead – COVID Response Office (Student and University Experience)

Room 5.2.15

5 Fellows Road, Law Building

The Australian National University

ACT 2600 Australia

ENHANCED SAHO MESSAGE TO RESIDENTS

Dear RESIDENT,

Good News! Yesterday ACT Health and the ANU COVID Response Office agreed an enhanced Stay at Home Order requirement for Residences at ANU. This means that despite a close contact being identified within the residence we can maintain some of the freedoms available under the standard SAH Orders imposed on all ACT residents.

The ANU has announced today that the campus covid alert level has been raised to extreme. During the period of extreme covid alert on campus all residences will operate under the enhanced Stay At Home Orders. This approach:

- Further mitigates risk by reducing exposure of students to the broader community
- Gives more certainty for students rather than changing conditions every time we get a close contact
- Allows us to better plan logistic and wellbeing support to students

Conditions of Enhanced Stay-at-Home Orders include the following. Note that these will be implemented in slightly different ways across residence depending on the facilities available in those buildings:

- You cannot leave the residence for shopping or vaccinations. Your residence team will work with you on ensuring there is an ordering system in place for urgent purchases eg groceries, personal items, prescriptions;
- You will be placed in a geographical bubble groups of approximately 20 residents, although this will vary from residence to residences;
- With your geographical bubble groups you will be able to:
 - o Use your allocated bathroom facilities,
 - o Use the kitchen at a rostered time for meal preparation or dining hall for designated meal delivery times
 - o Eat some meals in the dining hall in designated socially distanced seating arrangements
 - o Exercise with one other person from your geographical bubble group (must wear a mask and must not interact with anyone who does not live in your residence);
- Outside your room you must wear a mask and practice COVID-safe behaviours at all times.
- Common rooms remain off limits – including the kitchen outside your rostered/scheduled times.
- Choose one person in your bubble to be your buddy. You can enter teach other's rooms but should wear a mask.
 - o Your buddy must be within your geographical bubble.
- I have also asked staff in all residences to find safe ways to allow access to laundry facilities for your bubble group.

For some residences, there will also be meal delivery services, depending on the suitability of kitchen facilities to meet the needs of residents during the enhanced SAHO.

These provisions are in lieu of a full isolation, as we have experienced over the weekend and again this morning. We need your compliance so that we can maintain amenability with the ACTH orders and avoid future Whole-of-Hall Isolations. If there is a lack of compliance with these enhanced SAHOs, it is likely that future close contacts will trigger another isolation for the hall.

The COVID Response Office will continue to work closely with ACT Health as this situation unfolds.

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The Australian National University

ACT 2600 Australia

From: [Tracy Smart](#)
To: [Smith, Louise](#)
Cc: [Patricia Teh](#)
Subject: New approach to managing close contacts in the residences
Date: Thursday, 19 August 2021 8:05:07 AM

Louise

I hope you managed to have a true day off yesterday. I am hoping you may have 5-10 mins today to test an idea for a more refined approach to managing the response to a close contact in a residence with shared spaces.

The present approach is that everyone is regarded as a close contact and must go into quarantine. As we agreed on Monday this now involves living bubbles and freedom to exercise.

I made the decision on Tuesday to employ the living bubble approach across all residences with a maximum size of 40 per bubble (for practical reasons), regardless of whether the residence is in quarantine or not. This was to reduce risk but also reduce the change as we go in and out of quarantine for a close contact.

Given this arrangement could we please discuss refining our approach, so that when we get a close contact only those in the living bubble are considered secondary contacts and need to be in quarantine? This will relieve some of the tension and pressure we are getting from students and parents but should still be safe.

Happy to discuss.

Cheers

Tracy

Professor Tracy Smart AO
BMBS, MPH, MA, Dip Avmed, FRACMA, FACAsM, FAsMA, FCDSS, FACHSM (Hon)
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