

COVID Health & Safety Guidelines for Host Families

Under the [Study Safe Corridor](#), Languages Canada member schools, including GV Victoria, are committed to ensuring that students and host families are qualified, informed, prepared for, and in agreement with requirements for safe travel and quarantine upon arrival in Canada, by providing all necessary arrangements and documentation to assure IRCC and CBSA that students are arriving safely in Canada, including:

- [Languages Canada Protocol for Safe Arrival and Quarantine of International Students](#)
- [COVID-19 International Student Travel and Quarantine Checklist](#)
- [COVID-19 International Student Quarantine Plan Template](#)
- [ArriveCan app](#)
- Proof of insurance for quarantine period

As host families prepare to welcome students from overseas, GV Victoria would like to provide information and resources on how to support and fulfill students' quarantine plans.

First, we ask that you please consider your own comfort levels and those of your household members and friends. Then, once committing to a homestay placement involving a mandatory 14-day quarantine period, host families must:

Prepare to strictly adhere to provincial and federal guidelines:

Please commit to hosting students only if you and all members of your household are in strict agreement with the guidelines set out by the provincial and federal governments. You can find these guidelines listed below via the hyperlinks provided:

- BC Government: [Welcoming a Friend or Family Member from Abroad](#)
- BC Centre for Disease Control: [Self Isolation After Travel](#)
- BC Government: [Self Isolation on Entry to BC & The Quarantine Act](#)

Be available by phone on arrival day for Canada Border Services or Health Canada call:

Officials at the student's port of entry may call to verify the details of the student's quarantine plan. Host families must answer these phone calls if they are made.

Hosts MUST monitor their phones 24-7 on arrival day.

Ensure there are no vulnerable members in household:

Please do not commit to hosting or accept students who require the 14-day self-isolation if you have vulnerable members of the population in your home. Vulnerable individuals at increased risk include seniors or adults or children with additional health concerns such as diabetes, heart disease or asthma, or who have a weakened immune system because of certain medications or illness such as cancer (taken from BC government document).

Identify one healthy person to provide care:

Only one healthy person should be caring for the new arrival during this time. As unlikely as it is that anything would go wrong, we want to ensure we are encouraging everyone to operate according to our government's health and safety protocols.

Provide a safe and supportive environment, compliant with health guidelines:

- Everyone in the home must have been following public health guidelines in the 14 days prior to the student's arrival and **must be free of symptoms**.
- Before, during, and after the 14-day isolation period, **follow proper hygiene practices** and **practice social distancing** both inside and outside the home (6ft distance apart)
- **Cooking/meal preparation should be done by the host family** and brought to the student's room during self-isolation. Student should not eat in common areas until the 14-day period is complete.
- Students should **use a separate bathroom where possible**. If not possible, all touch points should be cleaned with household cleaners before and after each use.
- **Personal items must not be shared** (ie. linens, utensils, electronic devices, etc.).
- Staying in **self-isolation for 14 days will likely be a challenge** for some students. Do your best to make your student feel at home while observing safety protocols; for example, encourage them to stay in communication with friends and family back home, and facilitate the student getting out for fresh air each day.
- With guidance, **students can be expected to do their own laundry**. During the 14-day isolation period, student laundry should be done separately from that of the rest of the family. Clothes worn during the student's travel should be washed immediately upon arrival.

Take immediate action if the student develops symptoms or concerns:

If your student appears to have developed COVID-like symptoms during their stay, please:

1. Assist the student in calling the HealthLink BC nurses line at *8-1-1 (where translation services are available) or use the [online assessment tool here](#).
2. Follow all guidance from medical professionals.

3. Report the details to GV Victoria immediately. Please call the 24 hour emergency line at 250-727-8621 and email vichomestay@gvenglish.com.