

Pertussis Isolation-in-Place

Quick tips for individuals diagnosed with pertussis and their roommate(s)

Students who test positive for pertussis are encouraged to isolate off-campus. However, there are times when the only available option is for a student with pertussis to isolate in the same room as their roommate(s).

Remember, students living in the residence halls who become sick with lots of different contagious illnesses typically remain in shared rooms/suites with their roommates while recovering.

If your roommate tested positive for pertussis and you have a condition that puts you at high risk for severe illness (like being immunocompromised, pregnant, or having moderate to severe asthma), please contact University Health Services at 608-265-5600 to discuss care and treatment options.

Every Roommate

- Wear high-quality masks when you are in the room together.
- Use fans, air purifiers, or open up a window to increase air circulation and ventilation in the room.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects daily (including tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, faucet and cabinet handles, smartphones, laptops, etc.).
- Use your own hand, face, and body towels.
- Wash your hands thoroughly after you come in contact with shared surfaces or items.
- Do not share any food or drink until the isolation period has ended.
- If you share a sleeping space, arrange beds so that you have as much space between beds as possible.
- Use your bathroom tote or caddy to avoid personal items touching the bathroom countertop. Bring your tote back to your personal space rather than leaving it in a shared bathroom.
- Do not invite any guests to your room until the isolation period has ended.

Roommate with Pertussis (or Awaiting Results)

- Isolate until you have a negative test result or complete 5 days of antibiotics.
- If a single bathroom is available on your floor, choose that option over a shared bathroom. Be sure to wear your mask if you have to access any common spaces like a hallway.
- Order takeout, get grocery delivery, or visit the [University Housing website for food pickup and delivery options](#).
- Avoid in-person activities like class. Whenever leaving your room, wear a well-fitting mask.
- Contact the 24/7 UHS Nurse Triage Line at 608-265-5600 for additional guidance on treating your symptoms - especially if you are immunocompromised.
- Follow [CDC recommendations for preventing the spread of illness](#).

Roommate(s) without Pertussis

- Minimize time spent in your room by studying and socializing elsewhere.
- Wear a mask around others until 21 days after your roommate started antibiotics or your last contact with your roommate (whichever is earlier).
- You may still go to class and all activities.
- If you develop symptoms, call UHS at 608-265-5600.
- If you were not prescribed antibiotics for your exposure, monitor for symptoms for 21 days after your last exposure to your roommate.
- Follow [CDC recommendations if you develop symptoms](#).

