2023-2024 COVID-19 Student Compact

The Occidental College COVID-19 Student Compact outlines the expectations and guidelines all students are required to follow for the 2023-2024 academic year. As we navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic, the College has created supplemental policies which address personal responsibility and enforcement of additional requirements associated with the pandemic. In doing so, we strive to be clear with students about what pandemic-related behaviors are expected of them, and hold students accountable for their behavior for the safety and well-being of the entire Oxy community.

Students are central to Oxy's sense of community and culture of care, and have long been leaders in advocating for policies that promote the well-being of the community as a whole. The fact that there have been so few COVID-19 cases at Oxy speaks eloquently about the way students, as well as staff and faculty on campus, have stepped up to the challenges posed by the pandemic and have looked out for each other with real care and empathy.

The COVID-19 Student Compact supplements the existing Code of Student Conduct. Students who are in possible violation of the Compact will follow the process outlined in the 2023-2024 Code of Student Conduct. Potential violations of the COVID-19 Student Compact will correlate to the following existing rule and regulation: (r) Violation of other College regulations, rules, or policies.

Similar to any potential violation of the Code of Student Conduct, the College may institute interim measures (e.g. change of housing assignment) if a student’s behavior poses a substantial and immediate threat of harm to the safety or well-being of an individual or members of the campus community. Due to the potential threat of the pandemic, students found responsible for any violation of the COVID-19 Student Compact and/or the Code of Student Conduct may be subject to a higher level of sanctions than in previous terms, that include, but are not limited to, removal from college housing.

As the national and local landscape of COVID-19 continues to evolve, guidance, expectations, and requirements will be adjusted. College officials, including those at the Emmons Wellness Center, may provide additional expectations regarding to COVID-19 that reflect the latest guidance from county, state and federal health officials. Students will be notified of any updates to this guidance via email, and are expected to regularly check College email for all important updates.

1. Emmons Wellness Center provides COVID testing to students experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and those who have been exposed to an individual who has tested positive for COVID. If a student is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or has been exposed, they should get tested. Students may access testing by visiting Emmons or emailing covidops@oxy.edu for next steps, during business hours. Students who experience any medical emergencies after hours should notify Campus Safety, 911, or their medical provider.

2. Students must adhere to all College expectations regarding COVID-19 testing coordinated through Emmons Wellness Center. This may include full participation in testing and preventative
protocols that play an essential role in protecting the health and safety of the entire community. The most up to date information about COVID-19 campus protocols can be found on the COVID Back At Oxy Website.

3. Students are encouraged to use hand sanitizer or wash hands upon entering all campus buildings. Convenient sanitizer dispensers have been installed in buildings throughout campus.

4. Students who test positive for COVID-19, either off-campus or with an at-home test, must inform covidops@oxy.edu of their status. Students who test positive via campus testing should expect to hear from Emmons COVID Operations with next steps. COVID Operations along with REHS will work to provide further instructions for isolation. Students who isolate in an on-campus room are prohibited to leave their room unless there is an emergency such as a fire alarm or a request for medical professionals. Students must contact covidops@oxy.edu, Campus Safety, or REHS if they have any questions, or have a request to leave isolation.

5. Lounge, outdoor, classroom, and building furniture will be pre-arranged to best promote safety; students are not permitted to move or alter furniture.

6. Students must provide accurate and truthful information to College staff regarding COVID-19 symptoms. This may include daily temperature checks and symptom screenings.

7. As a reminder, underage drinking and/or use of illegal drugs (including marijuana) is not permitted on campus.