Winter Break Guidance for Students

Santa Barbara County is currently subject to Governor Newsom’s stay-at-home order which means that you should not be traveling at all if you are currently in Santa Barbara County as you are subject to these restrictions which currently extend until December 28, 2020. We are actively discouraging students from traveling over the winter break because of the serious risk of spreading COVID-19 to family and friends and also of bringing it back to our community. Anyone leaving and returning to the area should be tested both before departure and upon return to the area.

UC Santa Barbara is offering expanded no-cost testing for all its students regardless if you travel or not both before and after the winter break. You can schedule a test through the Student Health Portal

Increased rates of positivity in Isla Vista will prevent all of Santa Barbara County from easing restrictions on businesses, activities, and gatherings, and will prevent the campus from resuming activities, including in-person instruction, and opening facilities that serve students during the winter quarter.

If you remain in the Santa Barbara/Isla Vista area, there will be limited campus services available.

- Click [here](#) for Student Health Services hours of operation.
- Testing clinics will be run until 12/23/2020.
- Housing services will be limited and on an emergency basis only.

If you do leave the area and then later return, you should follow the guidelines listed below to ensure the safety of yourself and our Gaucho community.

Please click [here](#) for CDC information on risks involved with Holiday travel and celebrations

Before you leave...

- It is recommended that you self-quarantine for 14 days prior to your departure to decrease the risk of carrying COVID-19 out of the area.
- Testing will be available and can be scheduled here
  - UCSB Student Testing
  - Santa Barbara County Public Health Testing
- A negative test prior to leaving does not mean you won’t carry the virus home!
  - The COVID-19 test is an indicator of COVID-19 status only at the time of testing. If you have been exposed either shortly prior to your test or after your test, you can still develop COVID-19 before you leave, or while you are gone.
  - While testing accuracy is improving, you can still have a false negative test.
  - Quarantining after a negative test result can help reduce your risk of carrying the virus home to loved ones.
While Away…

- Wear a mask at all times
- Maintain physical distancing
- Frequently wash your hands
- Avoid social gatherings
- Continue to complete the daily symptom survey if you live in campus-owned housing or must be on campus for in-person instruction, labs or work.

Upon Returning…

- Arrange for testing within 48 hours of returning
  - UCSB Student Testing
  - Santa Barbara County Public Health Testing
- Enter a 7-day sequestration period (14 days if you are arriving from out of state)
  - Do not leave your apartment/residential complex except for essential activities (such as medical appointments; consider using grocery delivery services).
  - If you share space, wear a mask except when in your personal bedroom or in the shower.
  - Maintain physical distancing within your apartment or residential complex.
    - Set up a kitchen schedule so residents do not occupy the kitchen at the same time
  - Wipe down all surfaces with appropriate cleaners in all common areas after use.
- Take a second COVID-19 test 7 days after returning to the area to ensure that infection has not subsequently developed.
- If both tests are negative:
  - You may resume normal activities, including on-campus classes, labs and work, while continuing to follow all COVID-19 public health protocols.
  - Wear a face covering at all times when outside of your residential unit, except while eating or exercising.
  - Maintain physical distancing at all times.
  - Frequently wash your hands.
  - Continue to monitor for symptoms. If symptoms develop, remain in your bedroom, contact the UCSB COVID-19 response team:
    - 805-893-7129 for Student Health Advice Nurses
    - 805-893-3113 or ucsb-covid19@ucsb.edu for COVID-19 Call Center

We wish all of you a successful completion of fall quarter and a wonderful and safe winter break. Stay Safe!

Click here for tips on protecting yourself and your community after you travel.