



HMI COVID-19 Program Modifications FAQ: Fall Semester, 2020 July 6, 2020

Quarantine and Testing Pre-Program

I understand my student should quarantine for two weeks leading up to the departure date. What should this pre-program quarantine entail?

- Maintain social distancing with those outside of your family unit. Wear a mask when interacting with anyone not in your family unit, and interact only with people who are wearing masks (outside of your family members).
- Follow all local, state, and [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) guidance for travel and congregating in large groups](#).
- Contact HMI immediately if you come into contact with anyone who has or is suspected of having COVID-19.
- Schedule a non-stop flight to Denver if possible, even if it means more driving further to get to your departure airport. That said, we understand this may not be possible given limited flight offerings.
- On travel day, wear a mask and maintain distancing as best you can. Pack your own food. Practice excellent hygiene—most importantly wash your hands often and vigorously. Bring pocket hand sanitizer and sanitize frequently.

I understand my student should get a COVID-19 test within one week of travel. What are the parameters for pre-program testing?

- Have your student take a viral COVID-19 test if available in your area and submit the result to HMI before departure. Either a nasal swab or saliva test is acceptable. If you are unable to find a testing site, please contact us.
- You should contact your doctor and/or local testing sites to find out how long the test turnaround is. Plan to have your student tested 4-7 days before departure, depending on turnaround time.
- Antibody tests are recommended but not required. Some testing sites offer both tests concurrently.
- In the coming weeks we will send out a form asking you to tell us your plan for getting your pre-program COVID test.

Arrival at HMI

Can I drop off my student at the HMI campus?

- Most students will likely fly but feel free to drop your student off at the HMI campus.
- If driving to HMI, minimize stops and maintain distancing. Follow [CDC guidelines around travel](#).
- Parents who drop their student off will be asked to maintain physical distancing and wear a mask. Under these circumstances, we would love to give you a tour of campus!

Student body size

How many students are you expecting to be in the program?

- We are currently fully enrolled at 48 students and we have other interested students on our waitlist. We expect to begin the program with 48 students as usual.

Cabin Life



How many students are in each cabin?

- For the first four days students will live in their expedition group of 9-12 students with male students in one room and female students in another room of the cabin. A faculty member or apprentice will stay in the central room of the cabin.
- After the first expedition students will no longer be isolated in expedition groups and will be placed into same-gender cabin groups of 8-12 students.

Res Life / Distancing / Masks

Once students have all been tested will they still follow physical distancing and mask protocols?

- Yes. As much as is practical students will remain physically distanced and/or wear masks for the entire semester. This includes both when they are on campus and in the field.

Faculty-Student Relationships

How will faculty and students interact and how will you minimize risks while maximising relationships?

- Faculty and staff will wear masks and/or be physically distanced from students at all times while on campus.
- We will develop ways to maximize interactions while maintaining physical distance. We will conduct as many activities outside as weather permits including many meals and classes.

Will faculty/staff be tested?

- Backpacking instructors will be tested before leading a trip. Faculty and staff on campus will not be tested, but will wear masks and social distance from students on campus. Some faculty/staff may get tested on their own, as testing is readily available and free in our county.
- Faculty and staff will be required to quarantine if they are contact traced to an individual with COVID-19 or travel to an area that public health officials recommend quarantine upon their return to Colorado or Leadville.

Managing Sick Students and/or faculty/staff

How will you monitor student and staff health?

- We will perform temperature checks and COVID-19 symptom checks each morning on campus and in the field.

Where will sick students live?

- Symptomatic students will be quarantined in a cabin that we are converting into an infirmary. The infirmary will be able to house 4-6 students.

Who will provide oversight to sick students?

- Symptomatic students will be supervised by our newly-hired Student Health & Services Coordinator who will facilitate most of their logistics (including transport to the doctor's office, meals, and health checks).

Should parents be prepared to pick up sick students to bring them home?

- Students with COVID-19 can remain in the care of HMI and will be housed in the infirmary until our physician advisor clears them for rejoining the community. Parents do not need to be prepared to pick their student up.

Will students in quarantine have access to their computers for classes and communication with their parents?



- Yes. Students that are unable to join classes will have access to their computers, online work and easy communication with their families.

If a student requires healthcare for non COVID-19 reasons will the student need to be quarantined when they return to campus?

- If a student leaves campus to go to the doctor they will be welcomed back to campus as long as proper precautions are taken when they are off campus.

Will my student be tested or quarantined if they have been in close contact with a COVID-19 symptomatic student?

- We have operational plans for testing and quarantining and will seek the input of our physician advisor and local public health officials for specific situations. Our guidance on this topic is likely to continue to change over time.

What are the local and regional hospitals?

- Our Physician Advisor owns and operates Rocky Mountain Family Practice which is our preferred first-stop health care option in most situations.
- St. Vincent Hospital in Leadville is home to the closest emergency room and St. Anthony Summit Medical Center in Frisco is the closest large hospital (45 minutes away). We are lucky to have excellent medical centers in our region thanks to the ski industry.

Do you have trained subs on call to fill in if one or multiple faculty members are quarantining?

- Yes. We have assistant teachers (apprentices) available to fill in as well as a strong network of former HMI teachers and instructors in the Leadville community that we can call on for substitute teaching.