

Policies

Expectations for Residents During COVID-19

COVID-19 Policy page for Undergraduate and Graduate Students Living in Campus Housing

In consideration of the University's commitment to maintaining healthy and safe residential environments during the COVID-19 pandemic, the following expectations are for undergraduate and graduate students living in residential housing, inclusive of fraternity and sorority facilities. Residential Services and Fraternity and Sorority Life will update these expectations as needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. If changes are made to these expectations, residents will be made aware via email communication.

The guidelines below related to COVID-19 are in effect until further notice and supplement policies found in the [Residential Services policies and procedures \(http://www.northwestern.edu/living/about-us/policies/policies-and-procedures/index.html\)](http://www.northwestern.edu/living/about-us/policies/policies-and-procedures/index.html) and in the [Northwestern Student Handbook \(https://www.northwestern.edu/student-conduct/about-us/student-handbook/\)](https://www.northwestern.edu/student-conduct/about-us/student-handbook/). Policies will be updated to reflect the most current guidance from public health officials. When there is conflict between policies, the policies on this page override policies in the Residential Service policies and procedures and Northwestern Student Handbook.

Face Coverings

Northwestern requires that [community members wear masks \(https://www.northwestern.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/campus-return/guidelines/facemasks.html\)](https://www.northwestern.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/campus-return/guidelines/facemasks.html) in all public and shared environments on campus, and in alignment with other guidance about the use of masks on campus. Face coverings are required when entering or remaining any on-campus residential facility, including all spaces in residence halls and graduate apartments outside of the assigned room, suite, or apartment. This also includes situations where social distancing cannot be accomplished. The latter includes when in densely populated offices and classrooms, lounges and common areas, restrooms, elevators, laundry facilities, or University-provided group/mass transit.

Adherence to State Guidelines is Required

Undergraduate students who remain in residence on campus, both in residential communities and fraternity and sorority facilities, must comply with [Restore Illinois guidelines \(https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-introduction\)](https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-introduction), currently in

[Phase 3 \(/https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-phase-3\)](https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-phase-3), and [City of Evanston guidelines \(/https://www.cityofevanston.org/Home/Components/News/News/5082/249\)](https://www.cityofevanston.org/Home/Components/News/News/5082/249).

Limits on Gatherings

Gatherings of 10 people or fewer are permitted in [Phase 3 \(/https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-phase-3\)](https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-phase-3) of the Restore Illinois reopening plan and [City of Evanston guidelines \(/https://www.cityofevanston.org/Home/Components/News/News/5082/249\)](https://www.cityofevanston.org/Home/Components/News/News/5082/249). This includes informal gatherings in lounge spaces and outdoor spaces. Students must adhere to new occupancy capacities posted at the entrances of each public area. However, due to the challenges of social distancing in an individual residential room/space, no more than two individuals (including resident, or a number of people equal to double of the occupancy of the room, whichever is lower) may gather in a residential room. Per Northwestern's guidelines, outdoor recreational areas, inclusive of the basketball courts and tennis courts are closed and not available for recreation or any form of gathering.

Social Distancing is Required

Students in residence are expected to practice [social distancing measures \(/https://www.northwestern.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/resources/social-distancing.html\)](https://www.northwestern.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/resources/social-distancing.html) outlined on the [COVID-19 Updates website \(/https://www.northwestern.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/index.html\)](https://www.northwestern.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/index.html) when they encounter other residents in shared or public residential spaces.

Food Deliveries are Permitted with Exceptions

Residents not in isolation may have food delivered to their residential community or fraternity/sorority facility. Those making deliveries may not enter the residential space for any reason, and residents should meet the delivery person at an exterior door of the facility for the exchange of the delivery. Residents are encouraged to limit, and if possible, avoid any physical contact with those making deliveries. Residents who are self-isolating or are in required isolation, please see guidelines below.

Key Access Required

All campus buildings will have security card access activated 24/7. You will need your ID card in order to access buildings.

Undergraduate, Graduate and Common Space Guest Policy

Interim Wildcat Wellness Period Guest Policy for Residence Halls, Residential Colleges, and Graduate Apartments: No Visitation from Outside of Building (January 4 through January 17, 2021)

In working with state and local officials, Residential Services is committed to minimizing the spread of COVID-19 and in accordance with government health and safety mandates. In order to accomplish this, the traditional guest policy has been suspended.

Guests are defined as anyone not residing within your specific building. Residents permitted to live on campus may not allow or invite guests into the residence halls, residential colleges, or graduate apartments. Only currently assigned residents of your specific building may enter your building.

The suspension of the traditional guest policy will be reviewed as the year progresses; when the interim policy is lifted and returned to the former policy it will be communicated to residents and revised on the Residential Services' website.

However, residents assigned to the same building may visit each other in designated lounge spaces within the building while wearing face coverings, practicing physical distancing, and abiding by posted occupancy requirements within that lounge space. Residents are not permitted in the rooms or apartments of other residents during the Wildcat Wellness period.

Guests and Gatherings in Residence Halls, Residential Colleges, and Graduate Apartments (Prior to January 4, 2021; Starting again at 12:00 a.m. on January 18, 2021)

Guests Who Do Not Live in the Building

Guests are defined as anyone who does not have an active assignment in the particular building in question. Guest access will be restricted to common spaces (i.e., lounges outside of the residential sleeping area). Residents may not bring guests to areas with resident sleeping rooms or bathrooms, including graduate apartments. **Exceptions can potentially be made for on campus residents for dining purposes in dining commons, drop-in tutoring locations, engagement centers (Willard, Shepard, and 560 Lincoln), residential college programming for non-residents, and designated academic purposes. Caregivers and other exceptions may be made in graduate apartments. Please contact your Resident Director for further information about this policy.**

Residents and guests need to abide by all common space capacity limits posted on entry doors.

Overnight guests are strictly prohibited as part of students' responsibility to support a healthy environment.

Guests must practice social distancing and wear face coverings in residential buildings at all times.

Guests who do not live on campus, but are affiliated with Northwestern, must complete a [daily health attestation](https://symptomtracker.northwestern.edu/) (<https://symptomtracker.northwestern.edu/>) prior to visiting a residential building.

Guests who are not affiliated with Northwestern must follow the University [visitor policies](https://www.northwestern.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/campus-return/expectations/visitors/index.html) (<https://www.northwestern.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/campus-return/expectations/visitors/index.html>).

For the graduate apartments (Engelhart, Garrett Place, and McManus), the term "resident" refers to the contract holding student and their spouse, domestic partner, and/or children as approved by Residential Services. Graduate housing residents (Engelhart, Garrett Place, and McManus) may have guests in accordance with the [Northwestern Visitor Policies](https://www.northwestern.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/campus-return/expectations/visitors/visitors-requirements.html) (<https://www.northwestern.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/campus-return/expectations/visitors/visitors-requirements.html>), including registration that must be completed at least 48 hours prior to arriving on campus.

Informal gatherings in lounge spaces and outdoor spaces will follow guidelines for the phases of the Restore Illinois reopening plan (currently no more than 10 if physical distancing can be maintained).

Building Residents

After Wildcat Welcome, residents in residence halls, residential colleges, and graduate apartments may visit other residents in the same building, including in sleeping rooms and apartments, between 8am-12am.

Occupancy limits in a sleeping room or apartment must not exceed one visitor per contract holder.

Physical distancing of at least six feet and face coverings must be maintained and worn at all times.

Overnight visits are strictly prohibited as part of students' responsibility to support a healthy environment

From the hours of 12am-8am there will be no visitation allowed in resident bedrooms/suites as this is considered an overnight visit. Common spaces (i.e., lounges outside of the residential sleeping area) may be utilized while adhering to common space capacity limits and health guidelines.

Kitchens

In order to ensure social distancing and limit the number of residents using the kitchens at one time, residents will be able to use the kitchens, but with some restrictions and guidelines. Only one person will be able to use the kitchen at a time. Residents will sign up for using the kitchen in advance on a monthly sign up link that residents of the building or floor will have access to from their Resident Assistant (RA) or Resident Director (RD). Residents will be limited to one hour time slots, and only one slot per day. Residents will also be able to see the sign up via scan-able QR codes placed at the entrances of each kitchen. High-touch points will be cleaned every hour.

Lounge Spaces

Lounges will be available on a first-come, first-served basis and will have limited capacities to ensure social distancing. Lounge capacities will be posted at the entrance to the lounge, and seating and furniture will match that capacity. If a lounge is at capacity, no one else may enter the space. High-touch points will be cleaned every hour.

Laundry Facilities

Residents will still have access to laundry facilities on a first-come, first-served basis. However, to limit the number of residents in the laundry facilities at any one time, residents will not be allowed to wait in the laundry rooms for their laundry to be completed – you must leave after starting the cycle and/or retrieving your items. This includes taking your laundry with you back to your room to fold, instead of folding laundry in the laundry room. Additionally, all laundry supplies cannot be left in the space – items must be brought back and forth from the room (i.e., laundry baskets or hampers, detergent supplies, etc.). Each laundry space will also have capacity limits with signs posted outside the entrance. If there are the maximum number of residents currently in the space transferring their laundry, you must wait for someone to leave before entering. High-touch points will be cleaned every hour.

Study Rooms

Study rooms will still be available on a first-come, first-served basis for residents. Study rooms will be limited to one person per study room unless an otherwise stated capacity limit is posted on the entrance to the room to allow for social distancing. High-touch points will be cleaned every hour.

Fitness Centers

Residential fitness centers will not be available for resident use at this time. Given the heightened possibility of spreading germs through high-contact equipment and the already heightened cleaning procedures being implemented throughout other areas of campus, we are not be able to provide the adequate cleaning to a gym space. Residents will be encouraged to engage in outdoor physical activity while maintaining proper social distancing and wearing personal protective equipment (i.e., masks).

Bathrooms

Part of the rationale behind moving to a single occupancy model is to reduce the number of students using each bathroom. Most students will continue to share a bathroom, but with fewer students than usual. Residents may only use every other fixture (sink,

shower, toilet).

Prior to the arrival of our residents, we have cleaned and disinfected all sleeping rooms and communal spaces. In addition to this, we will have treated all residence halls and residential colleges with an electrostatic disinfectant sprayer (and continue to do so daily thereafter). This will dramatically reduce bacteria and viruses contamination throughout the buildings. All restrooms will be cleaned daily, with all high touch point areas within the restrooms on a minimum of an hourly basis. Additionally, all high touch point areas within the building, i.e. elevator call buttons, handrails, doorknobs, remotes, laundry machines, vending machines, etc. will be disinfected daily on an hourly basis during peak daytime hours 7:30 am – 4:00 pm.

Foster Walker Basketball Courts

Residential basketball court located next to Foster Walker will not be available for residential use at this time. Due to the potential high rate of virus transmission we will be closing this court for the academic year. We know this is disappointing, but it is the safest decision right now.

For details about other recreational opportunities for residential students, all students can scan the [QR code](https://nurecreation.com/sports/2020/3/18/fall-2020-rec-opportunities.aspx) ([/https://nurecreation.com/sports/2020/3/18/fall-2020-rec-opportunities.aspx](https://nurecreation.com/sports/2020/3/18/fall-2020-rec-opportunities.aspx)) with their camera or visit nurecreation.com

As we navigate the challenges ahead, please know that the University is here for you and we thank you for your partnership to protect the health and safety of the entire Northwestern community.

Symptom Monitoring and Compliance with Isolation and Quarantine Housing Protocols

Reporting Symptoms is Required

When a person has the virus, they may have a fever (above 100.4° F or 38° C), cough, and difficulty breathing. These symptoms overlap with several other common illnesses, including influenza. Students remaining in residence must report any COVID-19 symptoms to University Health Service (847-491-8100) for evaluation.

Follow Expectations for Students in Self-Isolation

Northwestern will provide isolation and quarantine housing to students living in campus housing. Residents who are required to isolate or quarantine must follow all guidelines provided by the University as they move to isolation or quarantine housing, or self-isolate in graduate apartments.

Given the realities of this global pandemic, we expect there will be students who are both symptomatic and asymptomatic who will test positive for the virus. We anticipate that there will be cases of COVID-19 on campus despite our best efforts to control the spread of the virus and the University cannot guarantee a virus-free environment. Every student and family should consider this as they decide to return to campus.

Dining Services

Important On-Campus Dining Information

As students return to campus, Northwestern Dining will assist the transition to on-campus life by providing meal delivery during the Wildcat Wellness period. Delivery times will vary by building and hot food will be provided twice per day in the lobby of each building. When you pick up your first meal there will be a welcome kit from Northwestern Dining with supplies including breakfasts, snacks, fruit, and bottled water. If you have serious food allergies or dietary concerns that are not able to be met by the Pure Eats

station, please contact Northwestern Dining's on-campus dietitian, Lisa Carlson at dietitian@northwestern.edu ([/mailto:dietitian@northwestern.edu](mailto:dietitian@northwestern.edu)).

After the Wildcat Wellness period, students are required to abide by Northwestern Dining guidelines, which may include eating at a designated dining hall and obeying limits on capacity at dining commons.

As always you can contact Northwestern Dining by email at dining@northwestern.edu ([/mailto:dining@northwestern.edu](mailto:dining@northwestern.edu)).

Cleaning

Residential Services maintenance staff are completing regular cleaning. Residential Services has increased the frequency of cleaning all touch points with a peroxide cleaner. On top of the increased cleaning regimen, we are also treating all common areas (corridors, lounges, community bathrooms) with our Clorox 360 ionization machines on a weekly basis.

Please be mindful of these new expectations established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the [resources](https://www.northwestern.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/resources/index.html) ([/https://www.northwestern.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/resources/index.html](https://www.northwestern.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/resources/index.html)) and support information available on the [COVID-19 Updates site](https://www.northwestern.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/self-isolation/index.html) ([/https://www.northwestern.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/self-isolation/index.html](https://www.northwestern.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/self-isolation/index.html)).

These expectations, as well as the policies outlined in the [Northwestern Student Handbook](https://www.northwestern.edu/student-conduct/shared-assets/homepage/panel1/quick-links/images/student-handbook-2019-2020.pdf) ([/https://www.northwestern.edu/student-conduct/shared-assets/homepage/panel1/quick-links/images/student-handbook-2019-2020.pdf](https://www.northwestern.edu/student-conduct/shared-assets/homepage/panel1/quick-links/images/student-handbook-2019-2020.pdf)), prioritize the safety and welfare of all members in our community. Individuals who do not abide by the expectations and policies are subject to follow up by the appropriate university office. Please note, due to the fluidity of the COVID-19 pandemic, Residential Services reserves the right to reassign students as needed for health and safety reasons. If needed, Residential Services will inform students of the timeline and procedures with advance notice.

Thank you for your adherence to these expectations during this challenging time. Please reach out for assistance if you have any questions about these expectations by emailing housing@northwestern.edu ([/mailto:housing@northwestern.edu](mailto:housing@northwestern.edu)) or calling (847) 467-HOME during regular business hours. If you have an emergency please contact Northwestern University Police at 847-491-3456.
