

STUDENT

COVID-19 POLICIES

FALL 2020



Division of
Student Life

ACCESS TO BUILDINGS

Students and all other authorized occupants of MIT housing (i.e. student's spouse, partner or children) must comply with all MIT policies and instructions adopted in response to COVID-19 concerning access to buildings and campus locations. These may include limiting access to certain buildings via designated entrances and exits, scanning of the MIT ID at designated access points, and signing in and out when reporting to or leaving campus buildings. Where a building has a designated entrance or exit, students must not enter or exit (or allow anyone else to enter or exit) the building through any other entrance or exit. In order to **access MIT campus buildings** other than your residence hall, you must complete your daily health attestation and scheduled COVID-19 testing as described below.



BUILDING EVACUATION PROCEDURE

In the unlikely event of a fire or other need for a building evacuation, regular evacuation procedures that you have learned during fire drill procedures, including some of those listed below, remain in place. However, due to the need to maintain physical distancing, **it may not be possible to gather together in the designated assembly area for your building.** It is most important that you move away from the building and remain at least 6 feet away from each other in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Please observe the following building evacuation procedure:

- Do not take the elevator.
- If possible, direct yourself to the designated assembly locations for your building (indoor or outdoor). If the space is too crowded, please move away and maintain at least 6 feet from other residents.
- Do not stand in front of the building entrance. Firefighters require easy access to the building.
- If there is inclement weather, take shelter in nearby buildings wherever possible and maintain proper distance.
- Once the Cambridge Fire Department gives the 'all clear,' you may return to your room, while continuing to keep 6 feet away from other residents.

In an effort to maintain physical distancing, avoid taking the elevator to return to your room. If you have any questions about evacuation procedures, please do not hesitate to contact Division of Student Life (DSL) Environment, Health & Safety (EHS) Program Manager, Alice Ursella, via e-mail at aurSELLa@mit.edu or via phone at (617) 253-4257 or the EHS Office at (617) 452-3477.

COMPLIANCE WITH COVID-19 POLICIES

It is required that all students adhere to these policies as well as any other MIT COVID-19 policies. Doing so is important not only for your own wellbeing, but for the safety and wellbeing of those around you—other students, faculty, staff, and our Cambridge-area neighbors, especially those who are elderly, immune-compromised, or otherwise vulnerable to COVID-19. Failure to comply with these policies may result in a referral to the Committee on Discipline. MIT reserves the right to take interim measures—including immediate removal from MIT housing—to protect MIT and surrounding community members.

In addition to these COVID-19 policies, the *Mind and Hand Book* is MIT's guide for student conduct and behavior. The handbook contains standards, guidelines, regulations, and procedures pertaining to academic integrity and non-academic behavior, and policies for all undergraduate and graduate students. Specific information about other housing policies is available on the [Housing & Residential Services website](#). In the event of any inconsistency between the Mind and Hand Book and these COVID-19 policies, the COVID-19 policies govern.

DAILY HEALTH ATTESTATION

Using [COVID Pass](#), students must complete a health screening questionnaire each day to determine whether they have symptoms that may be associated with COVID-19 as established by the CDC. In addition, students will be asked to attest that within the past fourteen (14) days, they have not tested positive for COVID-19, and are not aware of coming into [close contact](#) with anyone who they know has COVID-19 symptoms or who has had a positive test for COVID-19.

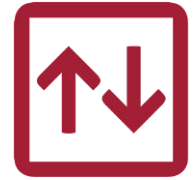


DIAGNOSTIC TESTING

Students are required to complete a [SARS-CoV-2 test](#) to be administered by MIT Medical when moving into a residence hall or returning to campus. Students who do not complete this test at the time of move-in will be denied access to campus buildings, including their residence hall, unless provisional access is granted by Housing & Residential Services (i.e. a student arriving after MIT Medical is closed for the day). Students will need to [self-quarantine](#) until their second negative test, taken seven days later, comes back negative. Students will also be required to comply with MIT's COVID-19 testing expectations, which may include completing a test up to twice a week while living in on-campus housing or accessing campus facilities during the fall semester, as well as undergo additional viral testing as directed by MIT.



ELEVATORS AND STAIRWELLS



If possible, use stairs rather than sharing an elevator.

INDOOR COMMON SPACES *(EFFECTIVE AUGUST 29, 2020)*

Open Common Spaces:

- Individuals or small groups of up to six residents may gather in open indoor common spaces (i.e., without a door or a lounge that is open to a hallway) up to posted occupancy limits. Residents using open indoor common spaces are required to wear face coverings and practice physical distancing.

Enclosed Common Spaces:

- Students can reserve designated enclosed common spaces (i.e., with a door) in residence halls. Availability of enclosed common spaces will be determined by the heads of house, in consultation with Housing & Residential Services. Anyone reserving and using a space must follow the residence hall's space-cleaning protocols before and after use. Space use registration and cleaning protocols will be posted soon. Protocols on the use of residence hall gyms are under development, but the facilities will remain closed until the protocols are approved.
- **Undergraduate Residence Halls:** Enclosed common spaces may only be used by pods in undergraduate residence halls.
- **Graduate Residence Halls:** Enclosed common spaces may be used only by small groups up to posted occupancy limits, but by no more than six residents. When using an enclosed common space, graduate residents are required to wear face coverings and practice physical distancing unless with their roommate or family.



EMERGENCY CONTACT & MIT ALERT INFO

If you have not done so already, please verify the emergency contact information you provided to the Institute. Review and, if necessary, edit your emergency contact information within [WebSIS](#).

Anyone with a Kerberos ID and cell phone registered with Duo is automatically added to the [MIT Alert](#) system, which is used to send advisories and critical notifications associated with COVID-19. Students are encouraged to also update their preferred email and phone number in the MIT Alert system to ensure notifications are also sent to that email and phone number. Community members who do not have a Kerberos ID or cell phone number in the Duo system should [follow this link to register for MIT Alert notifications](#).



FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED IN COMMON AREAS & PUBLIC SPACES

MIT requires the use of face coverings while on campus, including in common areas and public spaces, and anytime you are around other people. Disposable masks must only be worn for one day and then disposed of in the trash.

It is important to note that face coverings are used to protect others because you may be infected and asymptomatic. Reports indicate that a significant number of individuals who are infected remain asymptomatic and COVID-19 is mainly transmitted from one person to another through respiratory droplets. Use of face coverings, in combination with physical distancing and good hygiene, is a public health measure intended to reduce this community-based transmission pathway.



FOR CAMPUS UPDATES,
VISIT COVID19.MIT.EDU



Face coverings will be provided to students upon residence hall check-in.

Limited exceptions to this requirement include:

- When communicating with a hearing-impaired person, who needs your mouth to be visible
- Anyone with a disability or medical condition for whom wearing a face covering is not recommended by their healthcare professional*
- When consuming food or drink
- When you are alone in a private office or personal space with a closed door.

During the summer months, face coverings may be temporarily removed while outdoors when a physical distance of at least six feet from others can be maintained at all times.

Please review the [PPE policy statement](#) for guidelines and best practices.

Residents should also abide by and be aware of guidance from the City of Cambridge (or guidance from the cities/towns where they live), and Massachusetts laws regarding face coverings when in those areas. For certain city/town orders, those who violate may be subject to fines by the city.

*Consistent with guidelines from public health agencies and state and local guidelines, MIT recognizes there may be limited circumstances in which exceptions to wearing a face covering may be necessary and appropriate. If a student believes they are unable to wear a face mask or covering due to a disability or health condition, they may request an accommodation through the [Disability and Access Services Office](#) and an individualized assessment will be made. Decisions will be made in conjunction with the student's health care provider and MIT Medical, taking into account both the student's needs and the risk to the community. Requests that are deemed by MIT to create a risk to the campus community will not be approved.

MIT will work diligently to review these requests in a timely manner, but students may need to delay access to certain areas while requests are reviewed. If the request for an exemption to the wearing of a face covering is approved, access to certain areas/activities on campus may remain restricted.

PROMOTING STUDENT CONNECTIONS *(GUIDANCE)*

MIT recognizes that students want to connect with one another in a safe manner. There are a number of creative ways students may connect virtually or on campus. Though not the only method, the use of indoor and outdoor common spaces is

one example of how students can facilitate connections. For example, residents are permitted to connect safely per the policy on Indoor Common Spaces and are able to connect outdoors in residence hall courtyards and other outdoor spaces so long as physical distance guidelines and posted occupancy limits are observed. Students are also encouraged to use campus outdoor spaces to visit with other students, faculty, or staff who have approved access to campus. Further, an undergraduate residential pod program is in development in cooperation with student leaders.



GUESTS IN APPROVED INSTITUTE HOUSING

Undergraduate Residence Halls:

- Daytime and overnight visitors from other residence halls or outside the MIT campus are not permitted in the residence hall at any time.

Graduate Residence Halls:

- Daytime and overnight visitors from other residence halls or outside the MIT campus are not permitted in the residence hall at any time. The graduate residence hall guest policy will be reviewed mid-semester.
- The only exceptions for graduate student guests are for the reasons noted below:
 - Pre-approved friends or family members who are helping residents move to an off-campus location;
 - A childcare or healthcare provider who comes to graduate students' Eastgate or Westgate apartments during working hours to provide essential support for graduate students' health or wellbeing, or who allows graduate students to continue their research or teaching duties.
- Graduate residents should contact Associate Dean Naomi Carton via e-mail at naomic@mit.edu to request an exception.



FSILGs:

- FSILGs will be closed for the fall 2020 semester. No daytime or overnight visitors are permitted in FSILGs at any time.

HEALTH MONITORING

MIT may seek to perform health monitoring of students, including, for example, taking the temperature of students, if MIT determines that such measures are prudent to maintain a safe campus environment. MIT will take appropriate measures to ensure the confidential and private nature of the health monitoring information it may obtain from students. MIT may, however, share the testing results with certain MIT employees or city/state public-health officials with a legitimate need to know this information.



ID SHARING & TAILGATING

Residents may enter their residence hall by tapping their valid MIT ID. It is a student's responsibility to ensure that visitors do not follow them inside.

Per the [Proper Use of MIT ID Policy](#), ID sharing is prohibited.



LAUNDRY ROOMS

Please follow all posted regulations in the laundry room and practice physical distancing while doing laundry in the laundry room, leaving six feet between you and others.

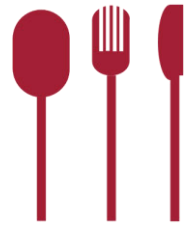
Launder items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. To help keep clothes free of germs, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting and dry your clothes completely. For more information about environmental cleaning and disinfecting, visit the CDC's website by [clicking here](#).



KITCHENS *(EFFECTIVE AUGUST 29, 2020)*

Undergraduate Residence Halls:

- Floor kitchens in undergraduate residence halls are closed. Residents can request permission to use a **country kitchen (or other pre-identified kitchen)** individually or with their pod for a special event (e.g. baking a birthday cake) through the space-use registration process. Students who reserve and use the space are required to follow the residence hall's space cleaning protocols before and after use. Space registration and cleaning protocols will be posted soon.



Graduate Residence Halls:

- Access to floor kitchens is restricted to posted capacities and may only be used by those students who do not have their own in-unit kitchens. Kitchen utensils must be cleaned thoroughly after use, and all surfaces must be wiped down. House Operations Managers will ensure that proper cleaning supplies are available.

MANDATORY REPORTING & SELF QUARANTINING

Students who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19, test positive for COVID-19, or come into close contact with someone who they know has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19, must stay in their room, suite, or apartment, self-isolate, immediately notify MIT Medical [covid19reports@mit.edu], and **await further instructions**. Students must cooperate with MIT Medical for all activities necessary to rapidly identify those with whom they may have had close contact, and follow any directions by MIT Medical, Division of Student Life, or public health authorities to quarantine or remain in isolation.



MIT IDs



Students are encouraged to always have their MIT ID with them when leaving their residence. IDs will be needed to access campus buildings.

PERSONAL HYGIENE



MIT Medical advises all community members to [practice enhanced personal hygiene habits](#) and to practice [physical distancing](#). You should make every effort to avoid contact with others. An article that shares more information about physical distancing may be found [here](#).

SOCIAL EVENTS



All events and parties within residence halls and FSILGs are prohibited until further notice. See the policy on *Indoor Common Spaces* for information about small gatherings.

TRAVEL

MIT has [suspended all Institute-sponsored travel](#), and is strongly discouraging personal international and domestic travel for all community members. Students should adhere to MIT's guidance on travel as indicated in the [MIT COVID-19 Return to Campus FAQ](#).

Graduate students may request a waiver for essential domestic travel from the High-Risk Travel Committee.

Students living on campus are encouraged to stay in the immediate Boston and Cambridge area. If a student leaves New England, MIT Medical has determined that they will require two COVID-19 tests within a seven-day period upon return. Students should go to MIT Medical immediately for a test at one of the times when testing is available. They should then [self-quarantine](#) for seven days. After seven



days, students are expected to go back to MIT Medical for a second test. Students will be able to access campus buildings while awaiting their second test result.

Students should stay current with [Massachusetts state guidance for travel](#). At present, if a student takes a day trip to a local New England area and takes appropriate precautions (e.g. wears a face covering, physical distancing), self-quarantine for seven days is not necessary. Please note that travel guidance and restrictions are subject to change as COVID-19 cases increase or decrease in various parts of the country. Students should always refer to the [MIT COVID-19 Return to Campus](#) website for the most up to date guidance.



Division of
Student Life

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139

STUDENTLIFE.MIT.EDU