FALL 2020 HOUSING FAQs

Effective July 9, 2020

We are excited about the reopening of campus and especially look forward to students returning to the residential community! As always, the health and safety of our campus community members are our paramount concerns. Accordingly, our policies and procedures for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic are intended to help ensure a safe environment for our students, faculty, staff and the public. There will certainly be differences on campus and within the residential community that are reflective of the global pandemic in which we have found ourselves living through during the past several months.

Our knowledge and understanding of COVID-19 continue to evolve, and our policies and plans will be updated as appropriate to conform with the latest public health guidance. As information about the virus and public health guidelines continue to evolve, your flexibility and understanding will be essential. Please continue to visit this page to review the most up-to-date information and guidance.

We recognize that this has been a challenging and uncertain time for many of our residents, and we thank you for your continued patience. If you have any questions, please consult with your Resident Assistant or contact University Housing at universityhousing@southeastern.edu or 985-549-2118.

LIVING ON CAMPUS

Can I still apply to live on campus?
Yes, we continue to process applications daily. While there is no deadline to apply, we encourage students to apply sooner rather than later in order to increase the probability of receiving a room assignment.

Will occupancy be reduced in the residence halls?
At this time, we intend on reducing our inventory by a small number of beds to set aside space in the event residents need to self-isolate during the fall term. This will not reduce our capacity dramatically but will allow us to ensure that we have rooms available if and when students need to isolate from others in the residential community.

Will students room together in double rooms this year?
Yes, double occupancy will still be offered; however, no more than two (2) students share a bathroom.

How can I request to live in a single room?
When you apply for housing you will be asked to provide your preferred room type. When making room assignments, we do take room preference into consideration. Room assignments are based on your Priority Date which is the date and time the application is completed. Since assignments are based on a first-come, first-served basis, we are unable to guarantee assignment to a specific room type.

What if I applied for a double room but now want a single room?
You may contact University Housing via email at universityhousing@southeastern.edu. Include "Double Room to Single Room" in the Subject Line. Please note that your email does not guarantee a single room assignment as rooms are reserved on a first come, first served basis. A University Housing staff member will respond to your email request within 24 hours.
Will I be able to have guests in my room?
At this time, access to residence halls will be limited to building residents only. Residents can have guests, but the guest must be a resident of the building. Additionally, only one guest per resident will be allowed at one time. Roommates will need to coordinate visitor schedules so that this guideline can be followed. In common areas within buildings, residents and visitors will be expected to follow social distancing guidelines by maintaining a distance of 6 feet between individuals, not congregating in small places, and wearing face coverings. Overnight guests are not allowed at this time. Please refer to the Student Safe Campus Guide for social distancing guidelines.

What if my roommate is not doing his/her part in keeping our room and bathroom clean and sanitized?
Speak directly to your roommate about your concerns. Now, more than ever, it is important that you and your roommate develop the ability to have open discussions about issues that either of you may be having within your living environment. However, if you are unable to resolve the issue together then you should contact your Resident Assistant (RA) to help with a resolution.

What will life be like in on-campus housing this fall?
We will continue to provide residents with programming, events and activities, as well as educational and professional opportunities that fall within the health and safety guidelines set forth in Southeastern’s Student Safe Campus Guide.

What about food?
Meal plans are required for all residents. Meal plans can be selected in Leonet through the registration period. For meal plan details, please visit the Dining Services website. Designated dining areas on campus have been modified so that the spacing of seating is in keeping with social distancing guidelines. Students are also encouraged to eat food only in designated dining areas, outside or in their residence hall room. You will also find information on additional safety protocols that have been put into place at our dining locations with regards to COVID-19.

Due to the revised academic calendar, when will I need to check out of my room?
The revised Fall 2020 academic calendar states that final exams will be held remotely from Monday, November 30th through Friday, December 4th. However, because we want our residents to be able to focus on preparing for final exams and not be disrupted with the task of packing and moving out, residents will be able to remain in housing through Monday, December 7th. Students will be expected to vacate their room by 5:00pm on Monday, December 7th.

Note: Keep in mind that the Housing Agreement is an academic year agreement and it is not necessary for you to remove all of your belongings from your room since you will be returning for the Spring semester. Residents will not have access to the buildings until we reopen in January, so it is important for you to take everything you could need over the winter break. More detailed information will be provided at a later date regarding winter break departure procedures.

CANCELLATIONS

What if I applied for housing but no longer want to live on-campus?
If you applied for housing but wish to cancel your application, please complete the University Housing Application Cancellation Form.
HEALTH GUIDELINES

What is the Student COVID-19 Protocol?
In order to help ensure a safe campus, it is imperative that all residents participate in this process including assisting with informing the University Health Center and University Housing of any potential health concerns associated with COVID-19.

All residents should self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms such as fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea. Residents who develop any of these symptoms should notify the University Health Center at 985-549-2242 or health@southeastern.edu.

A complete Student COVID-19 Protocol can be found here.

What personal safety practices should I be following?
All members of the campus community must adhere to the following preventative actions:

- Wear face masks in buildings and confined spaces if you are with at least one other person.
- Practice social distancing in all situations, ensuring a minimum 6 ft. buffer between individuals.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if no soap or water is available.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces, handles, knobs, and other places that are touched often.
- If you experience symptoms such as fever, cough, chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of smell or taste, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea contact the University Health Center at 985-549-2242. In case of emergency, contact University Police at 985-549-2222.
- No crowding in small areas. Individuals in confined spaces should generally have 110 square feet around them (this is a space of approximately 10’ x 10’).

What will be expected of students living in on-campus housing?
Student behavior is one of the most impactful factors to protect each other from the spread of COVID-19. As a resident student, you are committed to a number of practices that are vitally important, which include frequent hand washing, wearing a face covering, observing physical distancing practices while in public spaces, reporting to our staff and the Health Center any potential health concerns associated with COVID-19. If you have underlying health issues that you believe put you at a higher risk to COVID-19, living on campus in a dense community environment may not be the best choice at this time, but we will work to accommodate your needs.

What if I don’t want to observe the university guidelines?
The health and safety of our students is our highest priority. Therefore, we take COVID-19 guidelines seriously. Violation of these standards may be treated as formal conduct violations and repeated offenses will constitute a formal violation of your housing agreement, which could result in removal from on-campus housing. We want to be up-front with students about these expectations so they can make informed decisions about committing to living on-campus this year.
What testing will be available as students are returning to campus and throughout the academic year?

Public health guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does not presently recommend broad-based entry testing for those returning to campus. The CDC does recommend testing for individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 or individuals who have had close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19. While the university does not have the capability to complete diagnostic tests for COVID-19, the University Health Center has the ability to collect the necessary sample and have the sample analyzed by either the Louisiana Department of Health or local private labs. Students who think they may need to be tested should inquire with their Health Care Provider or the University Health Center at 985-549-2242.

Will the university provide me with cleaning supplies and sanitization products during my time living on campus?

Supply kits will be provided at student check in, but students are strongly encouraged to bring an additional supply of cleaning and sanitizing products. You will be expected to keep your living environment and bathroom clean throughout the semester. Standard health and safety checks will be conducted throughout the semester.

University Housing janitorial staff will follow consistent cleaning protocols in all residence hall common areas. Cleaning protocols include wiping down high touch and high use areas throughout the day, including elevator control panels, handrails, door handles and knobs, push bars, drink and food vending machines.

Please note that some common areas may be restricted or no access as deemed necessary to limit physical contact or potential exposure.

Will elevators within my Residence Hall be operational?

Yes, elevators will be operational; however, due to physical distancing guidelines, no more than 2 people at a time should use elevators. Residents should use the stairs whenever possible. If you use an elevator, wear your mask or face covering and avoid touching the elevator buttons with your exposed hand/fingers, if possible. Wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer upon departing the elevator.

Will I need to wear a mask while on campus?

Yes, you will need to wear face coverings while moving around campus, especially in spaces where physical distancing is not possible. Cloth masks are included in the supply kits provided to resident students at check in. Disposable masks will be made available in buildings should you need a mask and do not have your cloth mask with you. Disposable masks can be worn multiple times if allowed to dry between uses. Facial coverings will also be available for purchase at the University Bookstore.

What happens if a resident exhibits symptoms for COVID-19?

If you experience symptoms such as fever, cough, chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of smell or taste, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea contact the University Health Center or your health care provider and follow the guidance provided. Residents should also notify University Housing and follow guidance provided. A complete Student COVID-19 Protocol can be found here.
What happens if a resident tests positive for COVID-19?
If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, you should contact the University Health Center and University Housing for guidance. Resident students who are unable to return home to recover from the virus will be accommodated in spaces specifically designated for students who need to be isolated in accordance with guidance from the University Health Center. If it is determined that a student needs to be moved to one of these spaces, Housing staff will assist with the move and arrange for meal deliveries to the new room. Isolated students will be able to access their courses remotely during the isolation period. At the end of the isolation period and/or after symptoms have fully subsided, the student will complete an evaluation with the University Health Center to ensure that he or she is ready to reenter the residential community. The resident student will be cleared to return to his/her assigned room if all these criteria are met: 1) no fever, 100.4 or greater, for 3 days without taking any fever-reducing medication, 2) other symptoms have improved, and 3) at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared or the student has received two negative tests in a row at least 24 hours apart. A complete Student COVID-19 Protocol can be found here.

MOVING IN THIS FALL

Is Move-In Mania still scheduled?
Unfortunately, we have had to revise our plans surrounding moving into the residence halls and have had to cancel the events associated with Move-In Mania. Move-in dates are scheduled for August 10th – August 14th. Residents will receive an email communication from the Housing office as soon as individual check-in dates and times have been finalized.

What should I expect on the day that I move into the residential community?
- Check-in will be facilitated at various points around campus (depending on your assigned residence hall).
- You will wait in your vehicle while we retrieve your check-in packet. You will be informed where to go next and when to drive to the appropriate unloading zone.
- You will unload and move your personal belongings to your room, after which you will move your vehicle to a designated long-term parking zone.
- Please plan to bring only one or two helpers with you.

Specific details with dates, times, and locations will be included in the email communication that you will receive from University Housing.

What can I bring with me on move-in day?
Our website has great information about what to bring and what to leave at home. You can also order your linens online through a 3-party vendor rather than bringing those from home but this is optional. You will also find important information regarding mail services and the laundry alert system on our website so make sure to check those online features out as well.

University Housing reserves the right to make changes in campus housing occupancy limits, to be either more or less restrictive, based upon prevailing public health guidance and other pertinent information available at the time.