

Fall 2020 Planning: University Housing

June 26, 2020

Dear LSSU Community,

The fourth in our Fall 2020 planning communiques focuses on **University Housing**. The foundation for our plan is built upon the four pillars, shared in our first message:

1. **Social Distancing:** Maintain six feet of distance from those around you when possible.
2. **Mask/ Face Covering:** Wear a mask or face covering when in enclosed, public locations and/or when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
3. **Sanitization:** Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds multiple times each day or use hand sanitizer of at least 60% alcohol. Sanitize your desk, workstation twice daily, high-frequency touch surfaces, and living spaces with wipes found across campus.
4. **Personal/ Social Responsibility:** Actively encourage those around you to adhere to these pillars while doing so yourself. Remember, we are in this together and we all have a role to play in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

As we approached our Housing inventory, we were cognizant that we may have an increase in requests for lower-density housing options. In response, we reclassified some rooms in the housing inventory and took steps to reduce occupancy in some living spaces. We also made every effort to honor special requests.

Staff conducted a hall-by-hall assessment to determine entry and exit doors, which will be marked with appropriate signage. Additionally, traffic indicators and educational posters will be present throughout the residence halls as reminders of expectations and to reduce clustering.

Residence Hall Coordinators, Resident Advisors, and Resident Success Coaches will be required to complete the Workforce Training outlined in our previous communication about safety protocols and procedures. All residence halls will have ample supply of sanitization and cleaning materials for students to use in maintaining cleanliness throughout the year.

To enhance our established practice of roommate agreements, we added a discussion point related to COVID-19 and how roommates should conduct themselves in their living spaces. Roommates should expect to develop shared expectations related to wearing masks, frequency of sanitization, and circumstances under which guests (i.e., resides off-campus) and visitors (i.e., resides on-campus) are permitted in their living spaces. Roommates living together will be considered much like a family unit and masking and social distancing expectations may not be strictly enforced and may diminish over time.

While in common areas of the residence halls (e.g., lounges, laundry areas, kitchens, and group study rooms) students should wear face coverings and maintain appropriate social distance. All students should sanitize all common area spaces before and after usage. Furniture in common areas was reduced to promote lower density gathering. Study groups remain possible, though students should be mindful of the LSSU four pillars while working together. If members of a study group prefer or need to work remotely, take advantage of virtual platforms to ensure that group members can participate and contribute fully.

In halls where common bathrooms are present, students will be asked to be considerate and mindful of communal sanitation expectations. Cleaning supplies will be available in each community bathroom and custodial staff will also contribute to maintaining their cleanliness. Barriers will be placed between sinks and added between urinals in men's facilities. In apartment and en suite living, roommates should arrive at communal expectations for cleaning and sanitization of bathrooms and kitchen areas.

For students planning to reside on-campus: We will share information and expectations for you and your family concerning move-in procedures in a separate communication closer to Move-In Week.

This information is reflective of our current planning. Assessment will be ongoing, and updates will occur as necessary; this could include requiring limitations on guests (i.e., reside off-campus) and visitors (i.e., reside on-campus) in the residence halls. We are continually monitoring the effects of COVID-19 on our operations and evaluating our response. As modifications are made, we will keep you updated. Safety is among our topmost priorities. Please embrace your responsibility to keep our community safe.

Sincerely,

Michael Beazley, PhD – Dean of Student Affairs

with

Wendy Beach – Director, Human Resources, Safety, & Risk

Lynn Gillette, PhD – Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

Co-Chairs, COVID Response Team