

From: studenthousing@ucdavis.edu

Sent: Friday, August 21, 2020 5:30 PM

To:

Subject: What to Expect

Dear UC Davis student,

We are excited about the start of the 2020-21 academic year. As we prepare for your arrival, we want to ensure that you will have a good understanding of what life in the residence halls will be like this year. UC Davis will be implementing many measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission on campus and we are working in close collaboration with many experts including Yolo County Public Health. Of course we cannot guarantee a COVID-free environment; we are writing today to highlight what will be expected of you and what COVID-19 mitigation measures will be in place. This information and the information provided in other housing FAQs is intended to help you make decisions about campus housing.

Campus Interactions

The housing experience during the pandemic will be different. A major difference is the need to physically distance by at least six feet. To reduce risk of transmission, students will mostly engage with classes, clubs and other students remotely. In-person interactions will be small and very limited. Students will continue to be able to access various campus services remotely, with some services such as Student Health and Counseling Services beginning to offer some in-person resources. Gyms, outdoor recreational areas, dance rooms and other common gathering spaces may be closed or open, depending on guidance from Yolo County Public Health and the University. Updates will be provided frequently.

Room Density

All residence hall rooms will be single occupancy to ensure compliance with the State guidelines for institutions of higher education. These rooms will be at the double occupancy rate. All extra furniture will remain in the room and should not be removed. Room occupancy may adjust in future quarters as guidance allows, if this occurs then rates will also adjust.

Face Coverings and Hand Washing

Each Aggie will play a big role in helping stop the spread of COVID-19 by wearing a face covering over their mouth and nose, as well as frequently washing their hands and using hand sanitizer. Common spaces deemed as critical such as study spaces and computer labs will have strict limits on the number of people who can use them at the same time, and everyone will be expected to wear a face covering and sanitize their area before and after use by using sanitizing wipes that will be provided. Within campus housing, residents and staff will be expected to wear face coverings when leaving their apartments, including when walking around the building, using the common areas (including dining commons, laundry facilities, and computer centers) and entering and exiting the building.

Guests

To help limit the risk of transmissions, residents will not be permitted to host any other residents or outside guests in their residence hall room. Your room will only be used by you. While

outside guests will be prohibited within on-campus housing, residents will be allowed one person entering a building with them at a time, to assist during move-in day. Everyone must wear a face covering at all times during move-in day. With face coverings and physical distancing of at least six feet, students are encouraged to socialize outdoors.

Staff

There will be Community Assistants (CA) and full-time Resident Directors (RD) to help students with the transition to campus housing. We will not be hosting group events and indoor gatherings, however, CAs will still work with their students in building community with those on their floors. Much of this will be done through social media apps, like Microsoft Teams, Zoom or other channels. Outdoor activities will also be held in small groups (with physical distancing and face coverings) to assist with community development.

Dining

Dining will operate primarily in a “grab-and-go” format, featuring a selection of pre-packaged meals at each station. Please use the provided hand sanitizer station before picking up your pre-packaged meal. Students will be permitted to dine-in at their assigned dining facility once allowed by Yolo County guidelines. Students can take their food to their room or other locations on campus to eat. Sitting at a table with groups of friends or studying inside the dining hall will not be a part of the experience this fall.

Daily Symptom Survey

All students, staff and faculty will be required to complete the [daily symptom survey](#) and will need to be “Approved” to gain access to locations on campus. If someone does not attain “Approve” status after taking the symptom survey, they will be asked to stay in their room, shelter in place and contact Student Health and Counseling Services (SHCS). If an on-campus resident tests positive for COVID-19 or is suspected to have COVID-19 (based on symptoms or a known close contact to someone who is positive), they will be required to move into an isolation/quarantine space provided by the university until cleared to return by their SHCS health Care provider or a public health official. Support will be provided by SHCS and Student Housing and Dining Services. Support will include health care, housing, dining, instructional support and other services as needed.

Testing

UC Davis is working towards a unique, multi-disciplinary approach to screening and testing its on-campus population for COVID-19. On-campus residents have been identified as a population that will be required to participate in screening and testing using saliva samples in a process supervised by medical staff from SHCS. Residents should expect to be tested during the move-in process and at least weekly throughout the fall quarter. If a test comes back positive, there will be a response protocol in place to isolate, contact trace and do further testing if needed.

To reduce the spread of COVID-19 at UC Davis and to provide a healthy living environment in our housing facilities, we expect that each resident will follow all of the guidelines outlined above as well as any other measures that may need to be implemented. It will take a group effort as we practice our personal precautions and take care of each other. Life on campus will look different, and it may not be for everyone this year. Talk with your family and trusted friends,

consider your options and really give it consideration. In the event you decide that living on campus for Fall Quarter is not the best option for you, you will need to cancel your housing contract by **Sunday August 30th** via your MyHousing Portal. If you would like to return to campus housing for Winter Quarter, we anticipate having availability and will share more information with you mid-fall about winter contracts.

After considering all of your options, if you decide living on campus is the best option for you, we welcome you joining our community and contributing to the collective health and well-being as we pull together to overcome the challenges associated with the pandemic.

Your Housing and Dining Partners,

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