

Residential Students:

As you now know, President McPhee, in consultation with his on-campus management team and others, has announced that the University is extending our Spring Break by one week, through Sunday, March 22, 2020 to prepare for the remote delivery of instruction beginning, Monday, March 23, 2020 and continuing until further notice. Dr. McPhee and all of the rest of us will continue to monitor the conditions around COVID-19 during this time period, and a future decision will be made as to if and when face-to-face classroom instruction may resume.

In support of these new measures to protect the health and safety of our students, this message will provide additional information concerning the residence hall and on-campus apartment operations.

Residence halls and on-campus apartments will remain open and will be operating. However, each student will need to carefully consider whether your campus residence or your permanent home residence is the safest environment for you. The University is implementing social distancing protocols and expect students not to congregate in large groups. It is important for you to consider this before making the decision to remain in or return to your on-campus living situation. Students need to consider the CDC's criteria for people considered at a higher risk, including older adults and people with serious chronic medical conditions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>.

Students who need to return to campus to gather books, clothing or other items are free to do so at any time; however, please note you will need your student ID to gain access to the building. All main entry doors are locked and will remain so for the foreseeable future to insure access is limited to only current residents.

Residence Life staff will still be working and are available to address any questions or concerns you may have. However, we will be consolidating front desk operations to ensure that we can adequately staff the buildings. As such, please note the following changes that will go into effect at 8:00am on Monday, March 16, 2020:

- Lyon Complex desk will be open for Monohan, Lyon and Rutledge residents – the desk phone number is 615.898.4160
- Smith desk will be open for Judd, Gracy, Smith, Sims, Beasley, Deere and Nicks residents – the desk phone number is 615.898.5044
- Corlew desk will be open for Corlew and Cummings residents – the desk phone number is 615.898.4542
- Scarlett desk will be open for Scarlett, Womack and the Row Houses – the desk phone number is 615.904.8068

Please contact the desk for any lock-outs or any other concerns. We will have staff on-call 24 hours a day to respond to any issue.

The following restrictions will be activated as of March 16, 2020:

- Campus residents will have access to their own floor/building only

- Only residents of the Row will have access to their house
- All visitation is suspended until further notice
- As has been mentioned in other communications, the practice of social distancing is thought to be very effective strategy for helping to contain the spread of COVID-19. Social distancing is simply the practice of discouraging close contact between members of a community, including avoidance of social gatherings, meetings, and other group settings. With that in mind, students are asked to refrain from congregating in lounges or other social places within the halls. Residence hall activities and programs will be discontinued until at least the end of March.

All policies in the [Housing License Agreement](#) and [MTSU Policies](#) will still be in place. Students who violate established policies will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Meal plans will continue to be active during this time. However, dining venues will be limited to grab-and-go from the SUB POD and take out options from McCallie, in order to minimize time students spend in group settings.

Student Health Services and the Campus Pharmacy will remain open during this time. If you believe you may have been exposed, please phone Student Health Services at 615.898.2988 for evaluation and further instructions. Students who live on campus and do not have a place to stay in isolation off-campus should contact Housing and Residential Life at 615.898.2971 prior to arrival on campus so that we may assist you in determining a safe location in which to self-isolate.

Finally, in an effort to ensure the safety of all our residents we are asking that you please fill out a *Housing Occupancy Tracking Form* on the [MT Housing Portal](#) by Sunday, March 15, 2020, at 10:00pm so that we can track who is here in the halls. We can then specifically target messages and check up on residents who are still in the buildings.

We encourage everyone to keep informed of timely updates from MTSU on this issue by accessing <https://www.mtsu.edu/coronavirus/>.

Our number one priority at this time is keeping our community and MTSU safe. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,

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