

Considerations for Housing - Fall 2020

Updated October 1, 2020

We have received many inquiries and requests for guidance related to strategies and considerations around COVID-19 as individual organizations prepare for the fall opening. Using recommendations from UNL and the Lincoln Lancaster Health Department as our guide, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life has developed the following document to help as you develop plans for your facility and the safe return of your members. This document is intended to assist you with your planning and should not be considered a substitute for the guidance of local, state, and federal health official.

University-Approved Housing

The University of Nebraska has an on-campus residency policy that requires first-year students to reside in University-owned residence halls or other University-approved living units, which may include privately-owned and operated fraternities and sororities, provided they meet the annual requirements necessary to be granted University-approved housing status. Through this annual approval process fraternities and sororities must complete reports and provide the documentation as follows:

- Employ a live-in advisor or house director
- Maintain appropriate property and liability insurance
- Pass health, safety and fire inspections for the facility
- Follow University alcohol and other policies
- Provide contact information for student leaders and alumni responsible for the overall maintenance and management of the individual chapter

Any housing facility that is outside of the scope defined above would be considered Non-University Approved Housing. All chapter houses are considered off-campus facilities. This document is intended to recognize chapter facilities under the supervision of a House Corporation.

General Considerations & Resources

Follow and adhere to all CDC/Federal/State guidelines.

- [CDC Guidance for Colleges & Universities](#)
- [CDC Guidance for Congregate Housing](#)
- [State of Nebraska COVID Guidance](#)
- [Lincoln Lancaster Health Department](#)

Understand UNL's Forward to Fall plan, recommendations, and guidance for COVID-19 related to return to campus and facilities.

- [UNL Forward to Fall Information](#)
- [Fall 2020 Academic Calendar](#)
- [Face Covering Policy](#)
- [COVID-19 Signage](#)

Understand your (inter)national organization's plans, recommendations, guidance for COVID -19 related to return to campus and facilities. We've included information from industry partners.

- [North-American Interfraternity Conference COVID-19 Guidance](#)
- [National Panhellenic Conference COVID-19 Guidance](#)
- [CSL: Beyond COVID-19 \(includes links to webinars\)](#)
- [MJ Insurance](#)
- [Holmes Murphy- Re-Opening Check-List](#)
- [Social Distancing and Bed Position for Residential and Congregate Settings](#)

**Thank you to The Ohio State University of Fraternity and Sorority Life for the Outline.*

Updated 9/2/2020

Facility Management

Personal Health and Safety Measures

(Face coverings, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, symptom monitoring, etc.)

- Cleaning and Disinfecting
 - a. [Hand Washing Etiquette](#)
 - b. [Respiratory Etiquette](#)
 - c. University hand sanitization stations are available for purchase. Innovation Campus will be shutting down (or at least significantly reducing) their hand sanitizer production at the end of July. For your order, think about what you'll need for the year.
 - The hand sanitizer station holds 3 gallons of sanitizer. You'll need 3 – 1-gallon jugs to fill the sanitizing station.
 - <https://marketplace.unl.edu/default/catalogsearch/result/?q=hand+sanitizer>
- [Face Coverings](#)

The [CDC recommends](#) wearing cloth facial coverings in public settings where other social physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain, as cloth facial coverings may slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. An overarching principle to which the University of Nebraska–Lincoln ascribes is that Every Person and Every Interaction Matters. This [facial covering policy](#) has been established because we respect and care for ourselves and every person that we encounter on campus.

[Bedroom Occupancy](#)

- Physical distancing in rooms - All beds need to be placed 6-feet apart, head-to-head, and need to remain in that location throughout the year.
- Bunked beds will not be permitted, but students may loft beds for storage.
- This is an expectation of all University Approved Housing facilities. All other facilities are expected to follow to the best of their ability.

Room Density

Make sure that all habitable space not limited to living room, sitting rooms, bedrooms, or other spaces that resident(s) can congregate in have been de-densified by 50% capacity and allow 6ft of physical distance for each individual.

House Management

Delegate a team of individuals or have a weekly rotation of occupants who can assist the house director and/or student housing officer enforce COVID-19 related policies.

- Assist with eliminating congregation of more than [insert number of people based on DHM or space occupancy limitation]
- Assist with enforcing face coverings policy
- Alert House Corporation Board and Office of Fraternity and Sorority Staff, if a person tests positive/needs to be quarantined.
- All students **MUST** complete the university's [COVID-19 Student Training](#). This training covers health and safety measures in place to protect the entire campus community during the pandemic.

Visitors

We recommend following visitor policies as implemented by University Housing. All visitors should follow proper precautions:

- Wash hands frequently with warm water and soap for around 20 seconds.
- Use hand sanitizer that is available in residential buildings and elevators.
- Wear a face covering at all times when in the residence halls.
- Maintain a 6-foot physical distance from other individuals.
- Only gather in small groups where proper distancing can be maintained between all group members and participants.

Anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 **should not** visit the fraternity and sorority house in person.

Cleaning & Disinfecting

General/Common Areas

It is recommended that cleaning and disinfecting be increased in accordance with CDC Guidelines. Hand sanitizer and spray bottle disinfectant should be made available near high traffic area(s).

Resident(s) should closely monitor and strive to disinfect the following areas as frequently as possible:

Public Space (High Touch Point Surfaces):

- Doorknobs/Handles
- Handrails/Banisters
- Hand Sanitizer Stations

Restroom (High Touch Point Surfaces):

- Faucets
- Doorknobs /Handles
- Toilet Handles
- Paper towel Dispensers

Public Area/Lounge & Study Furniture:

- Tables
- Chairs
- Couches

Kitchen/Kitchenettes

- Stove (knobs/buttons)
- Faucets
- Kitchen Doors/Handles
- Refrigerator Door/Handle
- Counter/Countertops
- Dishwasher (if applicable)
- Dishware
- Silverware

Bedrooms

We recommend limiting the contact of individual bedroom spaces in the Fraternity and Sorority Houses. Frequent cleaning is recommended for these spaces.

Air Quality

We recommend that HVAC controls in the fraternity and sorority houses are set to balance resident(s) comfort and adequate introduction of fresh air accordance with ASHRAE standards.

- Personal oscillating, box, and desk fans are highly discouraged for usage.

Testing

A free COVID-19 testing site from TestNebraska is available for students, faculty, and staff (staff affiliates). The test location is in the 17th and R parking garage behind the University Police Station (300 N. 17th St.). This is a walk-up location. **Any students who needs testing, should schedule an appointment.**

For more on testing, visit <https://go.unl.edu/covidtesting>.

The University Health Center can also provide testing, but it would be billed to you or your health insurance plan.

Testing FAQs

Question: Who can receive on-campus COVID-19 testing from TestNebraska?

Answer: The campus location is open to students, university employees and campus affiliates. (House Directors would be considered as affiliates of the institution and could use this service.)

Question: When should I be tested for COVID-19?

Answer: There are many times may want to get tested. Those include:

- If you/member(s)aren't feeling well.
- If you/member(s) start exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 such as but not limited too fever (100.4 degrees F or 38.0 degrees C or higher, measured twice a day), or chills, coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headaches, recent loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.
- If you've been exposed to another individual with COVID-19.
- If you've been asked to get tested due to a congregate (or group) living environment.
- If you receive an email that you've been selected to participate in randomized testing.
- If you wish to be tested, even if you have no current symptoms or high-risk exposure.

Question: When should I quarantine myself?

Answer: If you are symptomatic and are getting tested, you should start self-quarantine immediately. You should not resume your regular schedule (going to class, going to work, or meeting up with people for example). This will limit the potential exposure to others if your test does come back positive.

Question: How long will it take to get results back if I am tested at the TestNebraska site on campus?

Answer: It will take approximately 72 hours to get results back via email.

Question: How will I be supported if I test positive for COVID-19?

Answer: If you test positive for COVID-19, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will be there to walk you through the process. Below in the reporting structure and quarantine and isolation section, we have outlined what a member can expect at any step of the process including assisting with notification of advisor(s), Student Advocacy and Support, and assistance in making arrangements for isolation housing.

Question: Who should I contact if I do test positive or plan to get tested?

Answer: If you test positive, you should self-report to covid19@unl.edu and follow your chapter's communication plan. If you need isolation housing, contact Student Advocacy & Support at (402) 472-3204. Additional helpful resources can be found at <https://covid19.unl.edu/students>.

Reporting

If a member of your communal space (meaning chapter members who live in the same space together) has contracted the coronavirus, the following reporting should take place. This is not limited to how each individual inter/national organization(s) has been advised to be communicated with about member(s) with COVID-19.

Members should [report any positive COVID-19 test results](mailto:covid19@unl.edu) to covid19@unl.edu or via text message to 402-266-6865. They should also report this to their Chapter Advisor and House Corporation Board.

Quarantine & Isolation

Definitions

Following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), quarantine, isolation, and close contact are defined as:

- *Quarantine* limits contact between someone who may have been exposed to the virus and other members of the community.
- *Isolation* separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.
- *Close contact* is someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset until the time the patient is isolated.

Quarantine Protocol

Initiation of Quarantine – Consideration for quarantine for any resident who:

1. Has been in close contact with someone under care for suspected exposure to COVID-19.
2. Has been in close contact with or has had confirmed exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. This may be determined by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) through investigation and surveillance of current active COVID-19 cases. This includes when a student's roommate tests positive for COVID-19.
3. Has recently traveled internationally, regardless of symptoms.
4. Displays symptoms associated with COVID-19. Students must quarantine and contact the University Health Center immediately. COVID symptoms include fever (100.4 degrees F or 38.0 degrees C or higher, measured twice a day), or chills, coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headaches, recent loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.

The amount of time under quarantine will depend on several factors. CDC guidance and directives from medical providers should be followed. In general, quarantine should last for 14 days.

Quarantine Instructions for Student

In most cases, students can safely quarantine where they live. They are NOT encouraged to go home to quarantine with family or caregivers as this may increase exposure to others. Students contact both the House Corporation Board and Advisor and follow these steps outlined at <https://covid19.unl.edu/quarantine-information-students>.

The student should notify the Housing Corporation Board and Advisor when the quarantine period has ended.

Plan how/what will:

- a resident(s) will get meals
- a resident(s) will do laundry
- using bathroom (stall, sink, and shower) in the house

Isolation Protocol

Initiation of Isolation – Consider required isolation for any resident who:

1. Tests positive for COVID-19.

2. Is directed to isolate by a medical provider, regardless of testing status.

Isolation Instructions for Student

Students who need to isolate will be provided isolation housing at no additional cost. They should contact Student Advocacy and Support at (402) 472-3204. Students will be instructed as follows:

- Return to their Fraternity/Sorority House (assigned space) to collect personal items
- Stay in Fraternity/Sorority House (assigned space) until receiving a call that their temporary room in isolation housing is ready. This will be less than two hours.
- Notify their roommate(s)/suite(s) and advisor that they are temporarily moving into isolation.
- Once in isolation housing, the student should have no in-person interactions with anyone outside of isolation.
- The student may only leave the building for fresh air, but **MUST**:
 - Wear a face covering at all times;
 - Maintain 6 feet of physical distancing at all times;
 - Not interact with anyone;
- Do not order food or other item(s) to be delivered.
- Do not allow guest(s), including friends and family, into the building.
 - If a Physician needs to visit:
 - Understand that the isolation facilities will not be hospital grade care facility.
 - The residents will need to meet and let the physician into the residence hall.
 - The physician needs to understand that everyone in the facility has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Stay virtually connected with friends and family via phone, text, email, video calls, and social media.
- If you decide to leave the assigned isolation space and return home, you will be expected to return home immediately. You are **not** able to return to your respective fraternity or sorority house to retrieve items.

The amount of time spent in isolation will depend on the length of illness, presence of symptoms, and medical provider's guidance. All three of the following criteria must be met before isolation can end:

- 1) 10 days have passed after symptoms began or you tested positive (if no symptoms)
- 2) Any fever should be resolved for at least 24 hours, and
- 3) Any symptoms of COVID-19 should be getting better for at least 3 days.

Information for Roommates

Any student whose roommate has tested positive for COVID-19 should follow the [Quarantine Instructions for Students](#).