

## Considerations for Housing – Spring 2021

*Updated January 22, 2021*

As the spring semester gets underway, we'd like to remind our organizations of strategies and considerations around COVID-19. Using recommendations from the university and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department as our guide, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life has developed the following document to help you offer a safe and healthy environment for your members. This document is intended to assist in 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 County Health Department \(LLCHD\)](#)

Understand the university's policies related to COVID-19:

- [Face Covering Policy](#)
- [COVID-19 Signage](#)
- [Spring 2021 Saliva-based Testing](#)
- [Student Compliance with COVID-19 Expectations](#)
- [Approval Process and Event Risk Assessment for Events of 50+](#)
- [Quarantine Information](#)
- [Group Quarantine Guidelines](#)
- [Isolation Guide for Students](#)

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.*

UNL hand sanitizer stations hold 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 isolation.
- All students **MUST** participate in the [spring testing](#) protocols which will provide them with access to campus buildings through the [Safer Community app](#).

### **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.
- Limit visitors to up to two guests at a time per resident.

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 within individual bedroom spaces in the Fraternity and Sorority Houses by not bunking beds and keeping beds as far apart as possible (at least 6 feet). 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

Free on-demand nasal-based testing for COVID-19 is available on campus from TestNebraska. **Any students, faculty, staff (staff affiliates) who needs testing, should schedule an appointment.** Both walk-up and drive-through options are available. The University Health Center can also provide testing, but it would be billed to you or your health insurance plan. For more on testing, visit <https://go.unl.edu/covidtesting>.

Free minimally invasive saliva-based testing for COVID-19 will be required for all students, faculty and staff who plan to be on campus this spring. Based on the recommendations of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD), testing will take place twice at the beginning of the semester and a determination will be made in consultation with LLCHD about what level of additional testing may be needed. Details on the spring testing program are available at <https://covid19.unl.edu/spring-testing>.

Questions about testing should be directed to [covid19@unl.edu](mailto:covid19@unl.edu).

## 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 outside of the campus saliva-based testing program to [covid19@unl.edu](mailto: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. 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 CDC offers several options for quarantine length. The university strongly recommends that individuals quarantine for at least 10 days after close contact exposure. If COVID-19 symptoms develop during quarantine, individuals should [schedule an on-demand nasal test for COVID-19](#).**

## Quarantine Instructions for Students

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 the COVID Care team at (402) 472-3204. Students will be instructed as follows:

- Return to their Fraternity/Sorority House (assigned space) to collect personal items.
- Wear a mask at all times and maintain 6-feet of distance from everyone.
- Stay in Fraternity/Sorority House (assigned space) until receiving a call that their temporary room in isolation housing is ready. Students should be ready to move in as quickly as 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 and not leave their assigned room unless directed otherwise by the university's Public Health Advocacy Team.
- 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.

Further instructions on isolation are available at <https://covid19.unl.edu/isolation-guide-students>.

## Information for Roommates

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