



COVID 19 GUIDE FOR RESIDENTS

A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW OF THE NEW PROTOCOLS AND
EXPECTATIONS FOR LIVING ON CAMPUS DURING THE CORONA VIRUS OUTBREAK

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Updated Safety Precautions

AN OVERVIEW

The Office of Residence Life is committed to maintaining the safety of our residents while still providing an engaging and enjoyable living environment. As a result, we have implemented some new precautions to protect the health of all members of the campus community.

- Residence halls will open with a variety of housing options including additional single rooms and reduced density across the residence halls.
- Dedicated spaces will be reserved in the event that any student becomes ill and needs to quarantine during the semester.
- The move-in process will be streamlined to observe social distancing recommendations and protect the health of students and their families.
- Show Care: The primary way [COVID-19](#) spreads is through person-to-person contact, so our best defense is to change the way we behave. We will expect students to show care for their friends, peers, colleagues, and neighbors by wearing a face covering when close to others, washing and sanitizing their hands often and properly, and practicing social distancing. We also expect students to avoid large gatherings and to communicate with Residence Life staff if they are feeling unwell.
- Students living on campus will be asked to comply with state-mandated testing protocols.
- Dining facilities will be open with revised services and offerings.

WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD DO

1. Wash hands regularly
2. Wear masks in all public spaces
3. Maintain a minimum 6-foot social distance
4. Follow all posted signage
5. Use appropriate entrance/exit to your building. Certain card readers will be disabled.
6. Use only up or down stairwell to promote one-way traffic. When only one stairwell is available, please keep to the right.
7. Follow capacity recommendations for elevators and stand in the designated spaces to promote social distancing.
8. Abide by posted occupancy numbers for common areas, bathrooms, and computer labs
9. Use sanitizing supplies when needed. Sanitizers will be available throughout buildings and in shared spaces.
10. Avoid touching your face
11. Avoid large gatherings
12. Abide by revised guest policies
13. Stay involved and connected through virtual programs, meetings, and one-on-one advising appointments with university staff members

14. Let us know how we can help. Residence Life staff are still here to serve you 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.

WHAT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES SHOULD KNOW

- All students and live-in staff will be tested for COVID-19
- If a student tests positive for COVID-19, the student will be moved to an isolation space on campus until cleared by Student Health Services
- Cleaning schedules have been increased across the residence halls and disinfecting products will be utilized. Bathrooms and common areas may occasionally be closed to allow for such increased cleaning.
- Touch-free soap, paper towel, and sanitizer dispensers have been installed across the residence halls
- Plexiglass has been installed in points of contact like the residence hall front desks to keep you and our staff safe
- Alternative programs and events will be held through virtual means and/or with advanced registration to cap the number of participants
- Furniture has been rearranged in common spaces to promote social distancing. We appreciate students' cooperation in maintaining these furniture configurations.
- SCSU and the Office of Residence Life will follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), State of Connecticut, and the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities to adjust and add regulations and policies as needed

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Have you reduced capacity in the residence halls?

We have **intentionally reduced occupancy** in the traditional residence halls for incoming freshmen in an effort to manage the student-to-shared bathroom ratio and support social distancing guidelines in the facilities.

2. Do students have to wear masks in the residence halls?

Yes – **you'll have to wear masks**. Other than in your own assigned room, suite, or apartment, you will need to wear a mask ANYWHERE you go on campus that is public – including the bathrooms down the hall. SCSU will be providing you each with one washable, reusable mask. You will need to bring your own supply of masks to wear while you're washing that mask. Please know that by wearing your mask and washing your hands frequently, you are showing care for the other members of your community.

3. What measures will the university be taking regarding cleaning in the residence halls?

Sanitizing stations will be set up around campus, including throughout the residence halls, for hand sanitizing. We encourage students to make use of these stations and good handwashing as frequently as they can. Again – this and wearing masks are the two best tools available for keeping all of us safe!

Cleaning in the residence hall – as always, the SCSU Facilities staff has been and remains hard at work keeping surfaces clean. They will be focusing on our residence halls and classrooms, where there is the most risk of exposure. This means that public spaces may be temporarily closed

down for additional cleaning throughout the day. Even with their increased presence and cleaning, the responsibilities for keeping rooms and apartments clean is, as always, the job of the students who live in that room/suite/apartment. For example, in addition to regular deep cleaning in private bathrooms, students should be wiping down their bathrooms after use (as will most of us in public bathrooms as well) along with doorknobs and other high-touch surfaces in the apartments. We will be providing cleaning products for rooms with private bathrooms and instructions for students on proper cleaning techniques.

4. Will on-campus residents be able to have visitors?

Guests will not be permitted in the residence halls at this time.

5. Are all residents required to get tested for COVID-19 before arrival? And what are the guidelines for testing?

Yes, all residents must be tested. Health Services will be sending a separate communication with specific instructions about when and how to be tested and how to upload results.

6. What is Residence Life doing to promote social distancing?

Social distancing will be practiced as much as possible across campus.

- Elevators – elevators will have no more than 2 riders at a time. If there are already 2 people on the elevator, you'll need to wait for the next one to arrive.
- Some hallways and stairwells will be marked directionally – meaning a stairwell may be an “up only” or “down only” stairwell – or that you can only walk in one direction in specific hallways. This is to assist with keeping people at a distance from and not passing by each other.
- Residence hall entrance doors may be designated as entrance or exit only (except in an emergency).
- Occupancy will be reduced in lounge spaces to allow for social distancing.
- Occupancy will be reduced in common bathrooms. Additionally, some sinks may be closed to facilitate social distancing.
- Programs – the programs hosted by your RAs, RHA, and Hall Councils will include a mix of in-person (observing social distancing limits and held in adequate spaces or outside) and virtual programs.
- Students should practice social distancing as much as possible in their rooms/suites/apartments. This could mean only one of you uses the kitchen at a time or that no more than two of you should be in the living room at a time.
- Health and Safety inspections will still be done but with a new process. More details will follow.

Housing Contract Addendum

Southern Connecticut State University is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of every member of its community to the fullest extent possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the University will adhere to national, state, and local health guidelines, keeping the campus safe is a shared responsibility. This means every member of our campus community must adhere to these guidelines.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the University must make changes to both your housing and dining experiences in the 2020-2021 academic year. These modifications to on-campus living arrangements and dining will remain in place until you receive notification from the University.

The guidelines below are part of your housing and dining agreement and are applicable to all residential students.

1. Considerations for Student Experience and Development

Residential staff will continue to ensure that the residential facilities are secure and will take extra precautions to promote a healthy living environment so students can focus on their academic work. We will maintain a 24-hour, 7-day on-call rotation to respond to emergencies, and desk staff will remain available during normal operating hours. While larger programs may need to scale back, activities conducive to smaller groups will be held whenever it is safe to do so. Further, residents can expect their peer staff members to reach out and communicate more frequently via electronic means including but not limited to: email, group messages, social media, and posted signage. Professional staff will also be available for support and engagement via digital platforms (including Microsoft Teams) and in-person meetings when possible.

2. Health and Safety

Residential students are required to comply with health and safety laws, orders, ordinances, regulations, and health and safety guidance adopted by the University or Office of Residence Life as it relates to public health crises including COVID-19. This guidance may evolve as the public health crisis evolves and requirements change. For the purposes of health and safety, residents will be expected to maintain 6' social distancing in the residence halls wherever possible including but not limited to lobbies, floor community lounges, basements, hallways, and entryways. In residence halls with community bathrooms, laundry rooms, and utility rooms/kitchens, occupancy will be limited and residents are expected to abide by posted occupancy signage. Residents will also be required to wear masks in these same public areas within the residence halls. To comply with social distancing, residents should follow elevator capacity guidelines and directional arrows in stairwells and heed other posted signage throughout the residence halls. As an on-campus resident, you agree to abide by all social distancing measures outlined by the University and recognize that failure to comply with such measures may result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Civic Responsibility where disciplinary action may be taken. Disciplinary action for repeated or egregious offenses may include dismissal from the residence halls with no refund.

3. Occupancy of the Residence Halls

Due to COVID-19 or any other similar outbreaks, the University may be required to change move-in dates, housing locations, or occupancy at any given time. Unless otherwise indicated by the university, alteration or modification shall not result in the termination or cancellation of the University Housing Contract or affect the Term of the Contract. When possible, the University shall provide students with 24-hour notice of such actions.

4. Other Changes in Policy

Residents are expected to comply with all additional guidelines and policies distributed by the University and the Office of Residence Life. Failure to abide by such policies may result in disciplinary action which may include removal from the residence halls with no refund.

In further consideration of state-directed social distancing measures, the guest policy may be amended and guest visitation may be halted altogether at the university's discretion.

5. Dining Services

Dining services, including locations and type of distribution or offerings for residential students, are subject to the discretion of the University and are subject to modification to address public health concerns. Due to health and safety guidance, the food service operator and/or the university may limit the occupancy of dining facilities, the seating available in dining facilities, the amount of time students may remain within dining halls, or make other adjustments needed to address health and safety concerns. Students will be notified of such modifications and, whenever possible, students will be given advance notice of such changes.

6. Testing and Contact Tracing

Students opting to live on campus agree to provide documentation that they have had a nucleic acid test such as reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) COVID-19 test; further information regarding the stipulations of such testing will be disseminated by Health Services.

Residents also agree to participate in contact tracing if necessary. If you test positive for COVID-19, you must promptly disclose that fact by completing the COVID reporting form on the Southern website. You will be relocated to a quarantine housing assignment for as long as the University deems it necessary.

***Please note:** A percentage of residential students will be randomly tested each week. When randomly selected, residential students will receive further information from the COVID-19 Coordinator. Failure to complete randomized testing provided by the school will result in disciplinary action which may include dismissal from the residence halls with no refund.

7. Quarantine / Isolation / Separation

At any time, the University may require a resident to leave his/her assigned accommodations if the resident's continued presence in the housing community poses a health or safety risk for community members due to COVID-19 or other public health emergency. Failure to leave violates the Housing Contract and may subject a student to emergency removal from his/her assigned housing. Removal from assigned housing to isolate or quarantine does not constitute a termination of a residential student's housing contract. Students will be expected to follow detailed protocols until they are cleared to return to their assigned space. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action which may include dismissal from the residence halls with no refund.

8. Cleaning

The University will continue to implement and modify its cleaning protocols to address COVID-19 in the interest of minimizing the spread of the virus. However, students should continue to practice good hygiene and clean their areas regularly to help mitigate the spread of the virus.

9. Termination

The University reserves the right to terminate housing contracts if the University decides that it has become unsafe to house students. In such circumstances, students will be provided with prorated refunds.

10. Assumption of Risk

As with any communal living environment, there is a potential for residents to be exposed to and contract illness or disease. When a student decides to live on campus, the student knowingly accepts this risk. While various preventative measures have been put in place by the University, any student who lives on campus assumes the risk of contracting COVID-19 or any other illness during their stay on campus. The University accepts no responsibility for illness contracted by residents or their guests.

11. Release

You agree to release the University, its agents, and employees from any and all damages, liability, claims, expenses, or loss (collectively, "Claims") resulting from or arising out of your use of University housing, dining or other facilities, including those related to the potential exposure to coronavirus/COVID-19.

Cleaning Overview for Your Residential Space

Residents are encouraged to take measures to protect their health when using the bathroom in their assigned residence. The following serves as an overview of suggested guidelines for cleaning your residential space. Please note: this guide is not a comprehensive overview.

COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC BATHROOMS

- Use proper handwashing techniques each time you use the bathroom.
- Do not share toiletries with others.
- Avoid placing toothbrush and other personal items directly on counter surfaces.
- Use tote for all personal items to limit their contact with surfaces in the bathroom

SUITE-STYLE BATHROOMS

- Use proper handwashing techniques each time you use the bathroom.
- Residents should avoid using the bathroom at the same time.
- Do not share toiletries with others.
- Take out trash daily.
- Wipe down counters and door handles daily with disinfectant cleaner.
- Clean entire bathroom (shower, toilet, floor) weekly. It is best to split this duty with your suitemate(s) (ex. each suitemate cleans bathroom every other week).

CLEANING PROTOCOLS

Before residents return to campus, each vacant residential room, apartment, kitchen and common space will be cleaned and disinfected with approved EPA-listed disinfecting agents by university custodial services. Immediately after move-in, residents are required to maintain, clean and disinfect their individual living spaces as well as their shared bathrooms, kitchens and common rooms, during their entire occupancy. Monthly health and safety checks will be conducted to ensure residents are cleaning and maintaining their space.

Per the CDC's guidelines for cleaning, residents should:

- Wear reusable or disposable gloves for routine cleaning and disinfection.
- Clean soiled surfaces using soap and water, then use disinfectant.
 - Follow the manufacturer recommendations on EPA-registered household disinfectants to ensure safe and effective use of the product. These recommendations may include (but not be limited to) ensuring appropriate ventilation and wearing gloves to protect your skin.
 - Cleaning with soap and water reduces the number of germs, dirt and impurities on the surface. Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces.
- Practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces. High touch surfaces include: tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.
- Please note: Residents are not permitted to hire any private or third-party custodial services to clean their residence

Remember, always read and follow the directions on the disinfectant label to ensure safe and effective use. Some considerations:

- Wear skin protection and consider eye protection for potential splash hazards
- Ensure adequate ventilation
- Use no more than the amount recommended on the label
- Use water at room temperature for dilution (unless stated otherwise on the label)
- Avoid mixing chemical products
- Label diluted cleaning solutions
- Store and use chemicals out of the reach of children and pets

You should never eat, drink, breathe or inject these products into your body or apply directly to your skin as they can cause serious harm.

WHAT TO BRING

Residence Life plans to offer a limited supply of cleaning products, but we strongly encourage residents to bring their own supplies. Examples include but are not limited to:

1. Personal cleaning solutions (ex. toilet bowl cleaner, all-purpose cleaner, etc.)
2. Disinfecting supplies
3. Disinfecting wipes
4. Reusable or disposable gloves
5. Eye protection, if desired
6. Cleaning tools (ex. scrub brush, toilet brush, etc.)

Guidelines for Quarantine/Isolation

In the case that a student tests positive for or shows symptoms of COVID-19, the Center for Disease Control suggests isolating in order to prevent spreading the virus to other individuals. Please note that while in isolation, it is the expectation that you do not leave your assigned space and have **no** guests whatsoever. Roommates of infected students and other students identified by university administration may be quarantined as well for the safety of our University Community. Quarantine spaces have currently been identified on campus.

CONTACT INFORMATION

In the event of an emergency or if you have any questions/concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the following:

- Director on Duty: 203-901-5944
- University Police: 203-392-5375
- Health Services: 203-392-6300

Other contact personnel:

- North Campus Office (Nora Anderson, Residence Life Coordinator): 203-392-6378
- North Campus Front Desk: 203-392-6379
- Counseling Services: 203-392-5475

The North Campus front desk will be staffed from 10am-3am daily. The North Campus office will be open 8:30am-4:30 M-F.

FOOD AND MEALS

Meals will be delivered to your door (contactless delivery). The quarantine space will also be stocked with a limited selection of frozen and non-perishable food items. You may also opt to order food delivery from local vendors during your isolation/quarantine period at your personal expense.

Please note: you are not permitted to leave your assigned space to retrieve food from the dining hall. While ordering takeout, you should continue to practice social distancing, using contactless delivery to ensure you are making no contact with the individuals dropping off items.

You have access to a full kitchen during this time within your apartment. The kitchen will be stocked with a limited selection of supplies:

- 1 spatula
- 1 cooking spoon

- 1 pan
- Trash bags
- Plastic cutlery
- Dish soap
- Sponge

CLEANING AND HYGIENE

- You are required to regularly clean and disinfect your bedroom, bathroom, common areas, and all high-touch surfaces (phone, remote controls, doorknobs, toilets, etc.)
- Routinely take all trash to the dumpsters located outside of the building.
- Toilet paper and hand soap will be provided
- Linens are available as well, upon request. Linens include sheets, pillows, blankets, towels and washcloths. All linens will be handled by a professional laundry service after use.
- Laundry cannot be done on campus. We will provide you with contact information for local businesses you can utilize for laundry pick-up services.
- While your unit will be cleaned after your isolation/quarantine period, we still ask that clean before you leave your assigned space.

FACILITIES AND WORK ORDERS

- Work orders can be placed online using the [Maintenance Request form](#). However, only emergency work orders will be completed while the space is occupied (i.e. toilet overflowing, loss of power). In the event you have an emergency work order, please call the North Campus front desk or Director on Duty immediately.

MAIL AND PACKAGES

Your mail and packages will be held at your permanent on-campus assignment. If you are awaiting an emergency delivery, please contact Nora Anderson at andersonn16@southernct.edu for contactless delivery.

GUESTS

Under no circumstances should you have any guests during your isolation/quarantine period.

OTHER POLICIES AND PROTOCOLS

All residents in quarantine / isolation are required to comply with all of the University's standard rules and regulations including the Student Code of Conduct, Guide to Living on Campus, and the supplemental COVID-19 housing addendum.

Failure to abide by the expectations for quarantine/isolation or violation of other University policies/protocols set forth may result in termination from housing. Termination from housing may result with or without a prorated refund.

Laundry Guidelines

Students who are not in quarantine/isolation may continue to utilize the on-campus laundry facilities within their residence hall assignment. Custodial services will be routinely wiping down all high-touch areas, but following the guidelines noted below may help keep all members of the residential community safe:

1. Do not shake dirty laundry. This minimizes the possibility of dispersing potential virus particles through the air.
2. Wash items in accordance with the directions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely.
3. The hotter the wash, the better. Experts recommend washing items at a temperature of at least 140 degrees.
4. Use the dryer. Drying clothes will further prevent the spread of the disease.
5. Use the correct amount of soap. Too much soap creates excess suds that enable dirt and grime to remain trapped inside the fabric. The right amount of soap will properly clean and then be rinsed from the clothing.
6. Clean and disinfect clothes baskets, carts, and hampers as often as possible. Use a washable or disposable bag liner, if possible.

For students who are in quarantine/isolation, you may not utilize on-campus laundry facilities.

Additionally, some students may prefer to use a professional laundry service for their personal clothing and linens.

Students may select a laundry provider of their choosing, though students in quarantine/isolation are advised to use only a contactless pick-up and delivery option. There are a number of local providers in the New Haven and surrounding areas. The University has communicated with two local vendors to receive pricing information for the convenience of students:

- **Howe Laundry** (475-238-6101) offers pick-up laundry services for \$1.20/lb plus tax and pick-up fee (determined by quantity). Turnaround time is approximately 2 days. 96 Howe Street, New Haven, CT 06511. Open 8:00 am – 9:00 p.m. daily.
- **Top Kat Laundry** (203-389-1306) in close proximity to campus offers a wash and fold service (no pick-up/delivery so not available to students in quarantine/isolation). 1289 Whalley Ave, New Haven, CT 06515. Open 24 hours.