Fall 2020 Opening Information
Amy Crim, Director of Residence Education

The Fall Opening Team hopes that this correspondence finds you and your family to be healthy. This information is to share some details about what you and your student can expect when arriving on campus between August 14 – 17. Due to COVID-19, the Department of Residential Life has implemented protocols aimed at keeping every member of the community as safe as possible during the check in process. Detailed information will be sent to students by August 10 that will include area specifics such as where to go for COVID-19 testing/check-in site, where to park, etc. This information has been sent to your student as well on July 28.

1. Students will be welcomed back to campus August 14 through August 17. In order to limit the number of people in our residence halls at a given time, all students must sign up for an arrival time in their MyHousing account (found on www.reslife.uconn.edu) by August 8. Students are expected to arrive during that selected time and may be turned away on campus if they arrive outside their selected time. Students must bring a copy of their confirmation email and UConn ID card.

2. We ask that students sit in the front passenger seat of the vehicle so that they are easily identified. If the front passenger side is not an option, we ask that the student be in the driver’s seat.

3. Students must be tested for COVID-19 at their designated UConn COVID testing site prior to checking in and receiving the keys to their room assignment. Once tested, students will be given a wrist band which allows Residential Life staff to proceed with the check in process. No student will be issued room keys without a wrist band. We ask that students go to the COVID-19 testing site and check-in site alone to help reduce the number of people in line. Family members and helpers will be asked to stay in the car while students follow through with these processes.

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4. Students will only be permitted to bring one vehicle to campus for the move in process. Students should plan accordingly when thinking about what they bring. Students should pack lightly. All students will completely move out of their fall room assignment by November 21.

5. Students will be permitted to have one person with them in their assigned residence hall to help with the move in process. Others that have come to campus with the student must wait outside of the building or in the vehicle.

6. Masks must be worn at all times by students and family assisting while on campus. If a student or family members are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, they should not come to campus.

7. Students must be mindful of time when unloading their vehicle as others need to unload as well. Vehicles will need to be unloaded to the curb or designated space. Vehicles will need to be moved after unloading to assigned parking area in order to provide spaces for others to unload. Your helper should help unload and carry items in and leave the campus at the completion as we are trying to reduce the number of people in a building at a given time.

8. It is important that all students and helpers are mindful of physical distancing in the hallways, stairwells, and elevators and that they pay attention to directional signage in the buildings.

9. Students should bring their own hand truck or dolly to assist with carrying items into their residential area. UConn will not be providing carts/dollies or volunteers to help move during fall 2020 opening in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

10. Please be aware that student mailrooms will not be open until the first day of classes, August 31. Students should plan to bring what they need for the first couple of weeks on campus.

Do you have questions?
There are FAQs on the Residential Life website please check here for answers to many questions:
https://reslife.uconn.edu/fall-2020-housing-faq/

If you have questions about another office on campus, please see the FAQ’s by office found here:
https://reopen.uconn.edu/faqs/

If you still have any questions, please write to ResLife-Communications@uconn.edu
Finding Community on Campus

Dr. Ralphel Smith, Director of Educational Initiatives

As the university prepares for fall opening during the age of COVID-19, it has been important to make sure we keep safety as a priority for all of our students, staff, faculty, and other stakeholders. As important as safety is, it is still important in Residential Life that we provide learning opportunities and events where we focus on the goals of personal success, interpersonal communication, and intellectual competence for our residents. In addition it is important for us to develop community where our residents all feel that they belong and matter.

Since the middle of spring semester multiple groups have been strategizing and working on welcoming students back to campus in a safe environment where community and connections are not sacrificed. As our team does each year, we are planning to have facilitation guides in our Residential Life Model that welcomes people back, builds community, and gets students involved in learning about the university. In order to adapt to COVID-19 many of our facilitation guides will be implemented virtually either through Zoom or even phone, or email. Having alternative methods aside from everything face to face to maintain physical distancing will be important.

Due to the fact that residents will be on campus doing residential quarantining for two weeks, there will be several virtual events planned so that residents can remain active, learn about the institution and get to know each other. Several events we have planned for residents are 1) exploring UConn resources for students through websites and possibly small group visits 2) Movie watching and discussion through Zoom 3) Physical Scavenger Hunt with physical distancing 4) Zoom scavenger hunt, etc.

Although these are unprecedented times, it is still important that we create a positive experience that celebrates our students beginning and continuing college careers. We will acknowledge that this is a very different time from any other time in our history and we want to be aware of that while also continuing the personal development and growth of our students through their college experiences that include academic classes, social connections, individual growth, mentoring relationships and lifelong friendships.
Housing Contract Additions

Kim Beardsley, Associate Director of Student Welfare

As we began to navigate how we could reopen the residence halls during this pandemic, the safety of our students and staff were always at the forefront. For this fall, we are implementing an addendum to the Housing Contract called Temporary Health and Safety Procedures. I wanted to highlight for you the measures we are putting into place that will likely feel different for your student from our past practices:

**Guests**
- No overnight guests are allowed in the residence halls
- Only one guest allowed at any given time
- Current Storrs residential student are permitted as guests
- The ability to host a guest is subject to social gathering restrictions
- Guests are not exhibiting Covid-19 related symptoms

**Social Gatherings**
- No more than five people may gather in a shared space
- The maximum of people allowed to gather in a lounge space will be posted
- Outdoor recreation areas adjacent to residential facilities may not exceed the Governor’s stated guidelines

**Face Masks and Physical Distancing**
- Residents must comply with all University guidelines and State of Connecticut public health mandates regarding the use of face masks and social distancing in residential public spaces
- Residents must also comply with all University guidelines related to public health in public spaces. Residential public spaces means all spaces outside of a resident's individual room/apartment/suite, including but not limited to stairwells, hallways, and laundry rooms.
- Dining Services will continue to offer a variety of menu options and all day dining for students with meal plans. Service will be takeout versus dining-in to help meet Dinning Health Requirements.
- Residents should wear facemasks when using any common use bathroom (those not on resident floors).

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Facility Use Restrictions

- University may restrict stairwells and hallways to one-way use
- Game rooms located in the residential area will not be open for use
- Residents with semi-private bathrooms will have their space cleaned periodically by facility staff, & personal items should not be stored in shared bathroom spaces

Self-Monitoring and Self-Care

- Storrs residents should consider SHaW Medical Care as their primary health resource if they develop symptoms
- You are expected to arrive to campus with a reusable thermometer
- Refer to SHaW’s recommended self-care items list to bring to campus

Residential Life is focused on protecting the health and safety of our residents. Your student will be responsible for reviewing and following these procedures. Our staff will educate students on these procedures and will provide reminders, however, failure to follow these procedures may result in adjudication through the conduct process. Our goal is to remain open and provide the best residential experience possible to your student. We will be able to meet this goal if all community members are focused on the health and safety of each other.

Please encourage your student to review these procedures and ask questions. We also encourage you to guide them during this time and remind them of these measures. We will always communicate via UConn email to your student regarding any revisions to the Temporary Health & Safety Procedures. We want to come together as a community during this time and take care of one another. We know our Huskies will always keep one another safe. We will see your student soon and are always here to provide support as we navigate this “new” normal.
Sharing Spaces Reminder

Jen O’Neill, Housing Services Specialist

The idea of sharing spaces with strangers can a source of stress for new students as they think about living on campus. To help reduce worries and to prepare students for their experience, we’ve created an online module called “Sharing Spaces.” Approximately 30 minutes long, the module includes videos of real UConn students sharing the ups and downs of their first roommate experience. Whether they lived with a friend or were assigned a roommate, the students in the video share stories of their expectations and new friendships, as well as experiences with conflict, living with people who share different identities, and tips for successfully sharing spaces.

While our module has been used for previous years and most incoming new students will not share a bedroom with another person, students this Fall will still be sharing bathrooms, hallways, entrances, and other common spaces. It is perhaps more important now than ever before to be a positive community member.

Sharing Spaces can be found in your student’s HuskyCT account. We recommend it be completed in one sitting. If your student plans to live on campus in the fall, we ask that the module be complete prior to their move-in day. Students who would like to live on campus for the first time in the Spring or in a future academic year, will be able to complete the module at a later date.

We are here for you and your students if you have any questions!

Contact Information
Department of Residential Life
Whitney Hall, ground floor
(860) 486-2926
livingoncampus@uconn.edu
https://reslife.uconn.edu

Find us on Social Media!
www.facebook.com/UConnResLife
@UConnResLife on Twitter and Instagram

We encourage all residents to use #LiveonandLearn to showcase the benefits of living on campus!