Residential Life Guidelines

COVID-19 and the Fall 2020 Semester

Principles

Residential Life aims to provide a holistic student experience, while providing safe living arrangements in conjunction with CDC and university guidelines.

To provide a healthy Christian community within our facilities, we must recognize the importance of human sanctity and caring well for the overall health of the community. Residential Life also acknowledges the mental, social, and physical challenges that will come with social distancing precautions due to COVID-19. Our goal is to provide a full college experience for students in every area, while addressing the current situation of our students.

Residential Life Orientation

Before Orientation Precautions:

- All Residential Life staff will be asked to limit their contact with others outside of their family, and to wear masks in public, two weeks prior to arriving on campus.
- Residential Life staff will be screened by their corresponding Resident Director when they arrive on campus and prior to moving into their housing assignment.

Orientation Procedures:

- Each morning of Orientation, Resident Assistants[1] and Community Leaders[2] will complete a health screening before training begins.
- Social distancing measures as well as PPE will be utilized during Orientation.
    - RAs and CLs will have designated seating arrangements for training sessions.
    - All Residential Life Staff members will be required to wear a mask during training sessions.
    - We will have hand sanitizer for all staff to clean their hands as needed.
    - All high touch surface areas will be cleaned with disinfectant wipes on a semi-regular basis.
    - RAs and CLs will be encouraged to maintain social distancing even outside of orientation settings.

[1] From this point forward Resident Assistants will be referred to as “RAs”
[2] From this point forward Community Leaders will be referred to as “CLs”

- During Orientation RAs will be trained in sanitation, social distancing guidelines, and screening protocols correlating with the guidelines set forth by the CDC and the University.

Early Arrival Student Check-In

- Early arrivals will be arriving no earlier than August 1, and will be moved in by 5 p.m. on August 4.
- Early arrivals will be scheduled through Residential Life or the on-campus group the student is reporting to for early arrival.
- Scheduled early arrival students will be spaced out across campus residence facilities alleviating overcrowding in residential halls.
- Upon arriving to campus, early arrivals will complete their initial health screening with their contact person. This process must be completed and verified with Residential Life before the student may enter their housing assignment.
- Early Arrival students will undergo a health screening each day with the on-campus group they report to.

New Student Move-In Day

- New Students will move in August 5 - 6 during designated timeslots.
    - Only new students will move in on these dates to maintain CDC guidelines within the residential halls.
- Residential Life's official communication explaining general guidelines for arriving to campus, unique sign up links for check-in times, and precautionary measures will be sent on Friday, July 10.
    - Residential Life will be utilizing You Can Book Me to generate individual links for specific check-in times at each residence hall.
    - These links will prevent overcrowding in all residence buildings in an effort to comply with CDC regulations.
    - Students will be given a three-hour time block to move into their housing assignment. Students will be asked to limit their accompanying guests to two people.
- When students arrive for their designated check-in time, they will report to the Noble-Complex parking lot for their official OBU health screening.
    - At this time, both students and their guests will be screened according to University guidelines.
    - After completing the health screening, students and guests will provided with proof of screening (i.e. wristband, sticker, etc.).
- Students will be directed to parking lots corresponding with their residence hall. There will be parking attendants and marked spots to assure each vehicle is appropriately spaced during move-in.

    - Once the vehicle is parked, belongings will be unloaded and the attendant will inform the resident of their appropriate parking lot.
    - Students will move-in their own belongings. This will help to ensure CDC guidelines are maintained.
- Students will follow posted University signage to check-in.
    - Students and guests will be asked to wear masks and social distance within the residence facilities.
    - Students will receive their housing paperwork and an informational video via QR code explaining their paperwork to limit the amount of contact between Residential Life Staff and guests.
    - Students will follow posted signage to their room and to navigate the building.
    - Desks will be equipped with Plexiglass and RAs will wear gloves while handing out keys.
    - RAs, CLs, and other Welcome Week Workers will be working to sanitize high touch point areas throughout each check-in time.

Returning Students Check-In

- Returning students will move-in August 7th-9th during designated time slots.
    - Residential Life's official communication explaining general guidelines for arriving to campus, unique sign up links for check-in times, and precautionary measures will be sent on Friday, July 10.
    - We are asking all returning students to move in on these dates to maintain CDC guidelines within the residential halls.
- Returning students will report to their assigned campus residence facility at their check in time to undergo the health screening process.
    - Students will be permitted to have two guests accompany them. Guests will also undergo the screening process at the residence hall desk.
    - RAs and CLs will be wearing proper PPE equipment during check-ins
- Similar procedures will be followed to direct flow of traffic while these students check in to campus housing.

General Residential Hall Guidelines

Health Screening at Residential Hall Desks:

- RAs and CLs will staff their respective desks starting August 7, until necessary, for health screenings.
    - Each residence hall desk will be open for screenings and other resident needs, from 7 a.m. to 12 a.m.
    - Any students leaving the dormitory before 7 a.m. will be asked to check-in with the first available screening location they encounter (i.e athletes would be screened by their coaches or athletic trainer).

- Apartment student can check in at their designated Residential Hall, or at one of the designated health screening points for off-campus students
- After doing their daily health screening, students will receive verification that they can utilize during classes or as they pass health screening points

Residential Hall Procedures:

- University signs will be posted throughout each residence hall encouraging residents to social distance, wash their hands, wear their masks, report their symptoms, and maintain a specified head count in common areas.
- Residential Life will work with Aramark to sanitize all high touch point areas, to include:
  - Common Bathrooms
  - Elevators
  - Entrance/Exit/Stairwell door handles
  - Study Rooms
  - Lobbies
  - Kitchens/Kitchenettes
  - Front Desk Areas
- All residential halls will have no more than 2 students per room. This is in effort to eliminate any overcrowding students' rooms.
- Visitation phases will be implemented in conjunction with OBU's phases. RAs and CLs will sanitize high touch point areas during all visitation phases.
  - **Phase 1-** From when students arrive until (undetermined date), there will be no visitation in any residential hall.
  - **Phase 2-** From (undetermined date) to (undetermined date). Residential halls will allow socially distanced visitation in common lobbies taking into account room capacity limits. Once maximum occupancy is obtained, no further visitors will be admitted.
  - **Phase 3-** From (undetermined date) residential halls will return to normal visitation procedures.
- Kitchens/Kitchenettes will be open with the following precautionary measures implemented:
  - Students will be required to comply with posted room capacity signs and social distancing measures.
  - Students will be encouraged to bring and utilize their own kitchen utensils. Residential Life will not provide rented utensils.
  - Disinfectant Spray will be provided in the kitchens/kitchenette areas. Students will be asked to disinfect areas after use.
  - Students will not be able to store food in the common kitchen/kitchenette spaces.

- Weight Room[3] use will be open with the following procedures in place:
    - Standard procedure in phases with the RAWC.
    - Masks in common areas when not lifting.
    - The room capacity for work out rooms will be six.
    - Regular cleaning of the weight room will take place when the room is empty or every four hours in phase with the RAWC.
    - Students will need to check in at the Front Desk in order to regulate the number of people in the room using the RAWC's EZ Facility program.
- Residential Life Programming will continue to provide holistic events for residents in phases.
    - **Phase 1-** From when students arrive until (undetermined date), all events will be limited to small hall events, or events under 50 held outside or in other open areas.
    - **Phase 2-** From (undetermined date) to (undetermined date) all events will be limited to 50 people with social distancing guidelines lines, and proper PPE required in smaller spaces.
    - **Phase 3-** From (undetermined date) residential halls will return to normal.

Procedure for Early Closure of Residential Halls

- While shutting down in person classes and on campus living is a last resort, if the University were to make the decision for early closure, the Residential Life staff will facilitate a safe departure for students from their on-campus assignments. Residential Life will communicate check-out information to students within 48-Hours.
- Student Check-Out Procedures will follow one of two plans:
    - If Campus is closed for the remainder of the Fall 2020 Semester:
        - Students will be given three days to remove their necessary belongings and follow normal close down procedures.
        - Building will remain closed to everyone one week after the last student leaves. After that time Residential Directors will do walk through of the building wearing PPE.
    - If Campus is closed for the remainder of the 2020-2021 Academic calendar:
        - Students will schedule a designated check out time, through contact-less sign-up, with their designated RA.
            - Each RA will communicate with their residents to get departure times set and communicate those times with their respective RDs.
            - RDs will gather information and ensure that departure times are appropriately spaced to follow CDC guidelines.
        - Students will only be allowed 2 additional people on campus to help them check out. Guests will be screened and given proof of screening.

[3] This currently will only effect Agee Residential Center. If OBU as a community moves to next phases, WMU will be considered to open their weight room.

- Students will follow these guidelines for check-out procedures:
    - From the time the decision to close campus is made, students without special circumstances will be asked to vacate their housing assignment within 5 business days.
        - If necessary, all students can be moved out within three days with spaced out check out times throughout residential halls.
        - Students with special circumstances will be approved through a hardship housing application
- If students are unable to return home or check out in the allotted time Residential Life allows, the student must apply for Hardship Housing through one of the specified reasons below:
    - International Student/MK/TCK: International students should make every effort to return home at this time. This hardship applies only if you cannot return to your home country at this time.
    - No Permanent Address: The student/student's family does not have a permanent address.
    - COVID-19 Community Quarantine: The student's home community is currently under COVID-19 quarantine, according to the CDC or local state department.
    - Independent Student: The student is considered an independent student according to the federal definition for Federal Student Aid with on campus housing being their only housing option during the spring semester.
    - Personal Health/Safety Risk: The student would be faced with a personal health and/or safety threat if he/she returns home.
    - Insufficient Access to Online Instruction: The student does not have the means to sufficiently access their courses remotely either due to a lack of technology hardware and/or home internet access.

Requested Equipment for Residential Halls

- Plexiglass at each desk- 6 total
- Infrared Thermometer- 5 total
- ID Scanner/ iPad for daily screening of students)- 5 total
- Masks (one of the following):
    - 1 box per desk- 6 total
    - OBU Branded Masks provided by University
- Gloves (at least one box per desk)- 6 total
- Touchless Hand Sanitation Stations- 6 min.; 11 max.
- Disinfectant wipes (at least two per building)- 12 total
- Receptacle for masks/wipes (one per floor in residential halls/laundry rooms if possible)- 16 total/ 22 total
- Signage for building