



Spring 2021 Guest Policy

Dr. Pamela Schipani, Executive Director of Residential Life

Why is Residential Life changing the guest policy for the spring semester?

We have learned during the fall semester that the spread of COVID-19 on campus is because of small interactions such as card games, common meals, and other informal interactions during which students are not practicing physical distancing and mask wearing. This fall, in an effort to provide students with the opportunity to interact and fulfill their need to socialize, we have encouraged them to engage in activities that can take place outside. As the weather turns colder it will become increasingly more difficult for students to do this.

We know that hosting guests (non “family unit” members) in small residence hall rooms or apartments doesn’t really support physical distancing which is a precaution that helps to reduce the spread of infection, and so we made the decision to not allow guests in these spaces. After speaking with some students, parents, and other staff at the University we slightly modified the no guest policy to allow residential students to spend time with one another in the common areas of the residence halls, meaning lounges and area community rooms. We know how important it is for students to engage with one another socially and we are hopeful that this change will allow for this interaction in a safe way.

Residential Life staff always strive to meet the needs of students and to listen to feedback. Changing this one piece of the Temporary Health and Safety Procedures document is an example of us trying to balance the need to socialize and the need to keep ourselves and others safe.

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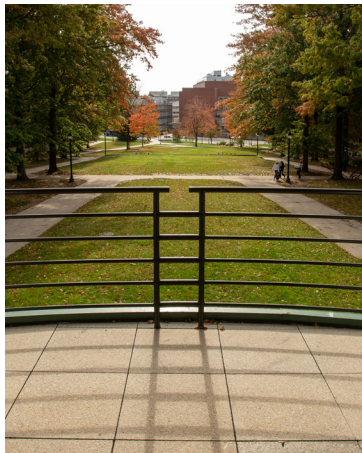
Spring 2021 Housing Information

Kim Proulx, Director Housing Services

On October 2nd your student received an email from our department with information regarding spring semester housing. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic will not allow the residential areas to be open at full capacity as hoped for spring 2021. As such, we will need to continue under a similar reduced occupancy model of around 50% occupancy.

We have asked all students to indicate their interest in living on campus for spring to apply, regardless of fall housing status. This will allow us to appropriately plan for any students who may want to return home or make other housing plans, as well as plan for students who wish to return to campus and for other students who may be interested in joining the on campus environment for spring.

Students have access to this form in their MyHousing account, under Applications. It may be helpful for you to discuss your student's plans and expectations with them for the upcoming semester and to review the email they received. There is a copy of the email sent to students and a FAQ section about spring housing on our website, under the header "Residential Life Covid-19".



Additionally, students who currently live on campus received an email regarding housing information for Winter Recess, if they have a need to remain on campus from November 21-January 18. Information about Winter Recess housing can be found on our website at <https://reslife.uconn.edu/winter-break-housing/>.

Students who currently live on campus and are approved to return for spring will have the option of leaving their belongings in their room, if they choose to return to the same assignment. Any other student changing rooms or leaving campus permanently will need to move all their belongings out by November 21.

We are here to help make this process simple for your student, so please encourage your student to contact us with any questions. Don't hesitate to reach out yourself if you are looking for information!

Election Viewing Party: Nov. 3 from 7-10pm

Jen O'Neill, Housing Assignments Specialist

Regardless of who wins this year's Presidential election, we recognize that the upcoming election is a highly contentious event and UConn students on both sides of party lines may find themselves feeling a spectrum of emotions ranging from hopeful and excited to confused, nervous, and upset. In an effort to ensure students have a space to come together and find connection with others, Residential Life will be hosting election viewing parties from 7pm-10pm in six locations on campus on Tuesday, November 3.

All political affiliations are welcome, as we come together to watch, discuss, and learn. Faculty members from a variety of disciplines will be present to facilitate meaningful conversations at each event.

Locations for the events can be found below. Spaces are limited to 50% occupancy for this event and students may only attend the event assigned to their area of campus. Card access to buildings will be provided for students' respective locations. Food will not be served and masks must be worn at all times.

- **North Multi-Purpose Room** [below dining hall] (for residents of North and Northwest)
- **South Game Room in Rome** (for residents in South, McMahon, Alumni, & West)
- **Werth Living Room** (for residents in Werth, Garrigus Suites, and Hilltop Halls)
- **Towers Student Center** [near dining hall] (for residents in Towers)
- **Busby Seminar Room 126** (for residents in Busby Suites, Charter Oak & Northwood)
- **Shippee Pequot Room** on ground level (for residents of Shippee, Buckley, & East)

We hope your student will join us! For questions, please contact Livingoncampus@uconn.edu

Election night
VIEWING PARTY

ALL POLITICAL PARTIES WELCOME.
FACULTY-MODERATED.
OCCUPANCY WILL BE LIMITED.

DATE Tuesday, Nov.3 **TIME** 7pm-10pm

LOCATIONS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Multipurpose Room (under dining hall) South Game Room (Rome) Werth Living Room Towers Student Center (by dining hall) Busby Seminar Room 126 Shippee Pequot Room (ground floor) Virtual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents of North & Northwest Residents of South, McMahon, Alumni, & West Residents of Werth, Garrigus, & Hilltop Halls Residents of Towers Residents of Busby & Charter Oak Residents of Shippee, Buckley & East Open to all residential UConn students
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Fall Semester Closing & Spring Opening Sneak Preview!

Sheila Morgansmith, Associate Director Residence Education

In just under a month the Residence Halls will be closing as students have the remainder of their semester online. Saturday, November 21st the Halls will close at 5pm and students will have to leave. Those that have applied for and been granted housing for the spring 2021 semester may be able to return to their same room and thus may leave some belongings in the space. If your student is changing rooms for the spring, they will be required to empty their room and take all of their belongings with them on November 21st. No matter what their housing plans for spring 2021 **all students will have to return their room keys when they leave.** Instructions on how to properly check-out for the November closing will be sent to students via email in the coming days. Proper check-out and returning of their keys will help students avoid fees for things like lock changes. Don't forget that the spring semester is on track to begin as scheduled with classes starting Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Halls will open the weekend prior – more to come on that soon!

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



Contact Information

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<https://reslife.uconn.edu>



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@UConnResLife on
Twitter and Instagram

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

