



Recommendations for Opening Sorority/Fraternity Facilities Fall 2020

In preparation for returning this fall, the Office of Student Life Fraternity and Sorority Life has developed the following set of recommendations for your consideration as you develop plans for your facility and the safe return of your members. This document is intended to assist you with your planning and should not be considered a substitute for the guidance of local, state, and federal health officials.

General Considerations & Resources

CDC/Federal/State resources

- [Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 resource page](#)
- [Ohio Department of Public Health Checklist for Shared-Living Facilities](#)
- [Center for Disease Control](#)
 - [CDC COVID-19 Guidance for Shared or Congregate Housing](#)

University plans, recommendations, guidance for COVID-19 and a return to campus and the facility.

- [The Ohio State University Post Pandemic Operations Task Force](#)

Understand the national/international organizations plans, recommendations, guidance for COVID-19 and a return to campus and the facility.

- [North American Interfraternity Conference](#)

Consider establishing a communication chain/plan for undergraduates, parents and other housing partners.

- Request accurate contact info of all members and parents/families for open communication.

Prior to Opening

- Cleaning
 - Revisit your active cleaning and disinfecting program.
 - Review cleaning guidance from the CDC. Consider scheduling a disinfection of the facility to establish a baseline for cleanliness.
 - Residential cleaning recommendations (NOTE: not commercial)
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html>
 - Commercial guidance
 - https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/ReOpening_America_Cleaning_Disinfection_Decision_Tool.pdf
 - Disinfectants that have been approved and encouraged for use for COVID-19
 - <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>
- Read CDC considerations for specific communal rooms in your facility including, but not limited to, shared kitchens restrooms, recreational spaces and laundry facilities
 - - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/shared-congregate->



[house/guidance-shared-congregate-housing.html#specific-communal-rooms](https://www.osu.edu/housing/guidance-shared-congregate-housing.html#specific-communal-rooms)

- When cleaning, check that all exhaust fan grills and supply grills are cleaned/cleared of dust build-up to promote proper air flow
- Consider consulting with HVAC technician to upgrade HVAC filters to highest MERV rating possible
- Consider arranging and/or removing furniture to provide for safe physical distance, including:
 - Spacing freestanding lounge furniture a minimum of 6 feet apart
 - Limiting the number of chairs at tables
 - Removing excess furniture or blocking it off in a way so that it cannot be used
- Identify a plan should a resident be exposed to or test positive for COVID-19
 - Understand the difference between quarantine and isolation and when each is required
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/index.html>
 - [Checklist for special populations in shared living facilities from state of Ohio](#), including quarantine and isolation guidance
 - Consider options for quarantine and isolation, including having the resident return home, whether your facility has the ability to provide a quarantine or isolation room with access to a separate bathroom, and if there are alternatives options (e.g., quarantine in hotel)
 - Keep in mind privacy laws regarding medical information and confidential needs
- You may have members in the chapter with [underlying medical conditions](#) who might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Consider how you will address their fees and charges.
- Consider a change in density of occupancy, if possible. [Click here for information](#) on what is being done in the university residence halls
- Consider identifying doors as “enter only” to allow for a sanitation station at the entrance and to allow for physical distancing. (Example, the house may be entered only via the front door. The house may be exited via all doors. Exception for emergencies)
- Develop a plan to support healthy hygiene practices
 - Consider increasing hand-washing stations/sanitizers in all public areas. Ensure adequate supplies (soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissues, masks, digital thermometers) are available to support healthy hygiene plan
 - Procurement
 - Identify supplies needed and contact vendors.
 - Consider partnering with other organizations for bulk purchasing rates and/or discounts with vendors.
 - Identify cleaning/decontamination company to clean facility prior to opening.
 - Consider if there are benefits to having [HEPA air purifiers](#) in student spaces.
 - Ask members to bring their own masks, thermometers, basic first aid/health kits with them.
- Review meal plan options and consult with local health officials or your food service provider to determine strategies for modifying food service offerings.
 - The University is expanding grab and go options and a reduction of seating in its dining facilities
 - Consider adjustments to process for dining, including meal shifts, meal service, distancing tables, etc.
 - State of Ohio guidance for [Restaurants, Bars and Banquet & Catering Facilities/Services](#)
 - If you have a chef, develop precautions to ensure their safety. Consider what happens if they get sick with COVID-19 while working (e.g., do they have insurance through your employment?)



Move In

- Move in should occur over several days to support physical distancing
- Stagger move in times and/or offer sign up times
- Consider limiting the number of guests that can assist with each resident move in
- Require students and guests to take temperature and observe signs of illness before arrival and reschedule move-in time if signs occur
- Encourage students and guests to wear masks to reduce possible COVID-19 spread
- Have hand sanitizer available at entrances and in elevators
- [Click here for university plans regarding move in](#)

Other Considerations

- Consider allowing only chapter members on property and in the facility.
 - If this is not the plan, what will guest policies be? Will overnight guests be allowed?
Who will enforce these restrictions?
- Consider a plan to address contractors, cleaning services maintenance operators, etc. to access the house.