

Benedictine University

Return to Campus Life – University Housing (Lisle)

University Housing has established a plan and safety protocols to **Protect our Flock** in the nest! The health and well-being of our students and staff is our top priority and will require steadfast vigilance of the protocols in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and protect our residents and staff.

Our residents represent a unique community from across the country who will share experiences, memories and spaces. We must all commit to our Healthy Hallmarks Pledge and strictly follow residential rules if we want to maintain a physical connection to campus life.

This plan has been developed based on professional guidance from members of the University Student Health Services (SHS), University Police (PD) and Facilities Management (FM), in addition to recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), American College Health Association (ACHA) and Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE).

Housing Capacity: Lisle

Overall, we have **reduced occupancy in our residence halls (Jaeger/Ondrak) by 25 percent** to accommodate safe distancing amid the pandemic. This decision comes from guidance from the DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

Double occupancy is standard, and single occupancy is an option. The University understands some resident students may prefer a single room accommodation option. By reducing occupancy, we are able to have more singles than in a typical year. **Students can email housing@ben.edu to request a single or double.**

Founders' Woods apartments have single bedrooms and shared bathrooms.

Isolation and Quarantine Procedures

Self-Quarantine is used to separate and restrict the movement of **well** persons who may have been exposed to a communicable disease to see if they become ill. These people may have been exposed to a disease and do not know it, or they may have the disease but do not show symptoms. Quarantine can also help limit the spread of communicable disease.

Self-Isolation is used to separate **ill** persons who have a communicable disease from those who are healthy. Isolation restricts the movement of ill persons to help stop the spread of certain diseases.

Isolation/Quarantine Spaces and Considerations

BenU has designated spaces on and off campus for isolation and quarantining, and a protocol has been developed and made available to all individuals involved in the management of isolation spaces and its procedures.

Ideally the ill/exposed student should return home for quarantine or isolation, but we realize that may not be possible.

A portion of housing will remain available and clean for use as a quarantine and isolation space in the case of illness.

- The isolation and quarantine rooms are physically separated from other residential student rooms.
- The rooms will have private bathroom facilities and be stocked with sanitizing wipes, tissues, soap, hand sanitizer and toiletries.
- Spaces will be labeled with appropriate signage to restrict access but will not state the reason for the restricted access, as courtesy to those individuals, and due to HIPAA violations.
- A team of designated staff will be appropriately trained and on-call to assist students with their personal needs (medication pickup, delivery of hygiene supplies, etc.).
- Student Health Services staff should remotely monitor students on a daily basis (temperature checks and symptom screening) and transfer to an on- or off-campus site for a clinical evaluation if symptoms advance or the patient requests.
- Food delivery will be arranged.
- Counseling Services and/or Campus Ministry will be available remotely to students in isolation or quarantine as needed.
- To the degree possible, students should continue academic activities remotely or be provided with note takers.
- Transportation will be made available to and from the location if medical care is needed.
- Custodial and maintenance staff are provided with and required to wear appropriate PPE ([as per CDC guidelines](#)) when cleaning or entering isolation and quarantine spaces.

At any time, the University may request or require a resident to leave Benedictine if a resident's continued presence in the housing community poses a health or safety risk for community members. Resident students are required to comply with requests to leave their assigned space due to COVID-19 or other public health emergency. Failure to do so is a violation of residence hall policies.

In the event a student must quarantine or isolate on-campus the following steps will occur:

- 1) Student Health Services, Housing and University Police will work with the DCHD to complete contact tracing to determine if roommate(s) or others have been exposed and will also need to be quarantined or isolated.
- 2) Staff will identify quarantine or isolation space and assist the affected student with move coordination (if transportation is required).

- 3) Facilities will preliminarily make up five kits that include: two rolls of toilet paper, five garbage bags, two rolls of paper towels, disinfectant and cleaning solutions.
- 4) The student will self-monitor daily and Student Health Services will check in with the student daily.
- 5) Student Health Services will provide COVID-19 testing site information for students, and the student will be required to complete testing.
- 6) Students should schedule meal delivery via Dining Services mobile ordering app.
- 7) Coordinate return to campus room assignment upon clearance of the following:
 - For students in quarantine, who have **not exhibited symptoms but were exposed to COVID-19**.
 - Students will stay in quarantine 14 days from last exposure.
 - While in quarantine, student will self-check temperature twice per day and watch for symptoms of COVID-19.
 - If symptoms develop, student will contact Student Health Services immediately.
 - Student Health Services will virtually check in with students in quarantine to ensure they do not need additional treatment.
 - For students who have **tested positive for COVID-19** and are in isolation.
 - Students will stay in isolation for a minimum of 10 days from testing positive if there are no symptoms
 - If experiencing symptoms after testing positive for COVID-19, student will stay in isolation for 10 days after symptoms first appeared and a minimum of three days with no fever and symptoms have improved.
 - Student Health Services will conduct daily virtual check-ins with students in isolation to ensure that they do not need additional treatment.
- 8) In the event students are unable to go home to quarantine, the following guidelines will be followed.
 - University Apartments (Founders' Woods, Lisle):
 - All residents in the unit will be required to quarantine or isolate and self-monitor (see above for quarantine- and isolation-specific guidance).
 - Residence Halls:
 - Students will move from their assigned room to one of the designated quarantine/isolation rooms (see above for quarantine- and isolation-specific guidance).

Resident Advisors (RAs)

Training

Assuming Illinois is in Phase 4, RAs will arrive on campus early. They will be personally notified of their move-in date.

- Training schedules and plans are being developed by Assistant Director for Co-Curricular Learning and Leadership Development, Monica Ragusa, and will be emailed to RAs by August 10.
- Until RAs are on campus, all training and support services meetings will be held virtually.
- Outdoor meetings will also be scheduled to prepare BenU RAs.
- If you are an RA, please contact Monica Ragusa via email at mragusa@ben.edu with questions.

Welcome to University Housing & Residence Life – Moving In!

Logistics

- With classes beginning August 31, we intend to have all fall 2020 resident students settled, comfortable and oriented by August 30, 2020.
- A detailed logistics plan will support moving students into their residences in a **reservation-only, staggered schedule that will span a four-day period.**
 - Until schedules are verified and communicated, please plan on a move-in date sometime between August 27-August 30.
 - Fall athletes, please plan on a move-in date between August 27-August 30. Coaches will communicate a different specific move-in date if practice schedules require early move-in.
- Detailed plans for a safe move-in day and comfortable return to on-campus housing are being finalized.
- We will communicate a plan to all students by August 10 via email from housing@ben.edu. Subsequent and frequent detailed communication will follow to ensure students and RAs understand the move-in process, health & wellness protocol and expectations for a safe return to on-campus housing.

Health & Wellness Screening

All resident students and advisors will be subject to screenings and surveys to ensure the health and wellness of our community.

- **We recommend that all residents self-quarantine for 14 days prior to arrival.**
- A questionnaire will be sent via email by August 10 to be completed within 24 hours of arrival. All residents will receive a Welcome Kit with reminders regarding COVID-19 protocols, housing policies and self-assessment requirements. The kit will also include a thermometer, a BenU branded mask and hand sanitizer.
- **We require all students to complete a daily self-assessment when on campus.**

Student Health Services

- **Student Health Services, located in the Krasa Student Center,** is available to students to provide comfort and supportive nurse care. In addition to helping residents with concerns around COVID-19 symptoms, exposure or testing, BenU Health Services is there for all health and wellness questions as we know students may develop a variety of illnesses or health concerns while living on campus.
- Student Health Services will support the education of all residents on the proper protocols for self-monitoring, cleaning/sanitizing and social distancing.
- **All students who move into University Housing at BenU must have a valid insurance card and understand their benefits and provider information.** We recommend families discuss with students their personal plan-of-action for managing a potential exposure or illness. Student Health Services is available to help support that plan.

- Contact information, Location and Hours
Krasa Student Center, Room 116
Monday-Friday (Academic Year Only) | 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
(630) 829-6046 | studenthealth@ben.edu

If a student is ill:

Resident students at Benedictine University are never without help or support from their BenU community.

Quick Reference Response to COVID-19 for Students:

1. Students, both resident or commuter, are required to conduct a daily self-check for COVID-19 or other flu-like symptoms prior to participating in classes or University events.
2. If the student is experiencing COVID-19 or other flu-like symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, they are expected to quarantine or isolate at home or in their room and immediately complete the [Student Absence Reporting form](#).
3. **Student Health Services** will review the **Student Absence Reporting** form and contact the student virtually to determine next steps and a treatment protocol.
 - If needed, Student Health Services will notify the University Tracking COVID-19 team and DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) to seek further assistance.
4. If Student Health Services learns that a student has tested positive for COVID-19 or has been exposed to the virus, **the University has isolation and quarantine procedures in place**. Isolation and quarantine procedures will be explained to the affected student by Student Health Services or DCHD. Contact tracing will be initiated by DuPage County Health Department and follow up conducted through Student Health Services and the University Tracking COVID-19 team, who will begin working with any other affected students, faculty or staff.
5. Emergency notifications will be made to the Benedictine Community as needed throughout the semester.

The BenU Six-Foot Residential Campus: General

The BenU COVID-19 Task Force Teams and our medical advisors have devised a detailed and well-informed approach to help residents safely navigate University Housing. Intensive cleaning protocols, six-foot distancing, signage, masks and adherence to the BenU Healthy Hallmarks pledge will be our collective 24/7 commitment to safety.

Specifically, residents will experience a newly planned residence experience to accommodate social distancing and ensure healthy habits:

1. **Daily Cleaning:** All residents will be educated on **cleaning protocols** by signage within their assigned apartments and during opening hall meetings.
 - Daily cleaning protocols will be supported by posters and signage in private rooms, common areas and throughout halls.
 - Staff and RAs will communicate frequently with residents to encourage compliance with daily cleaning protocols and waste disposal.
2. **Compliance:** Students will be responsible for upholding cleanliness standards. Regular health and well-being inspections will be completed throughout the semester by University Housing staff to ensure the safety of the residential community.
 - This expectation is covered in the Housing Health Policy Acknowledgement within the Housing Portal. Upon completion, students will receive a copy via email.
3. **Frequent Cleaning:** Facilities Management will engage staff in frequent cleaning of common areas and high-touch areas twice daily. (See Shared Spaces.)
4. **Increase in Hand Sanitizer Stations and Disinfectant Wipes:** Residents will be educated on location and availability of multiple cleaning resources throughout residence halls and campus.
5. **Indoor Air Quality Upgrades:**
 - Filters in all units will be upgraded.
 1. Air purifiers will be placed in each Founders' Woods apartment.
 2. In residence halls, air purifiers will be installed in hallways and common spaces.
 - Residents are encouraged to circulate fresh air whenever possible.
6. **Physical Distancing:** All medical advice suggests that maintaining a six-foot social distance from others will help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Facilities Management teams will make accommodations to ensure spaces are marked and arranged to ensure residents maintain a safe, six-foot minimum social distance.
 - Community bathrooms are appropriately marked for social distancing.
 - Floors will indicate social distance directions/traffic flow in common areas, entrances, restrooms, etc.

Shared Spaces in Residence Halls – Community Bathrooms & Lounges

Face masks are required in all community lounges, hallways and restrooms.

Bathroom – Communal

- Each bathroom will have a maximum occupancy limit to ensure safe distancing supported by signage and barriers.
- Traffic flow will be directed by “exit only” and “entrance only” signage.
- Each shared bathroom will be disinfected at least twice per day.
- Protocols are in place to ensure community bathrooms are stocked with soap, towels and hand dryers. Trash cans will be checked and emptied frequently.
- Residents must use personal totes to transport their personal items and limit contact with surfaces. Toothbrushes should never sit on sinks.

Lounges

- Access to community lounges and gathering places will be restricted to avoid unsafe gathering which can lead to the spread of COVID-19.
 - These recommendations are from DCHD and IDPH agencies.
 - Lounges will reopen on a phased schedule.
- Lounges will be clearly marked for social distancing, supported by signage and staff/RA communication with students.
 - A maximum occupancy limit will be communicated and enforced.
 - Furniture will be removed or staggered to accommodate safe social distancing.
 - Hand sanitizer stations will be frequent and visible.

Laundry Rooms

- Laundry rooms will have a maximum occupancy limit to ensure safe distancing, supported by signage and frequent communication.
- Laundry rooms will be cleaned twice daily by staff with a focus on disinfecting high-traffic/high-touch fixtures, shared items, laundry machines and surfaces.
 - Disposable gloves and cleaning supplies will be available onsite.
 - Residents will be encouraged to clean/sanitize as an extra measure of prevention to protect their community.
- As a high-touch, shared space, laundry rooms will be stocked with adequate cleaning/disinfectant supplies for public use before and after utilizing this shared space, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. *Note: laundry detergent will not be provided.*
- The [CDC guidelines](#) for doing laundry, maintaining the facilities and handling of dirty laundry will be posted and shared with residents.

University Apartments - Common Spaces

Our goal is to emphasize the importance of precautionary measures through signage for guidance on the daily cleaning of commonly touched hard surfaces.

- All common spaces will have a maximum occupancy limit to ensure safe distancing, supported by signage and frequent communication.
- People who are sick, their roommates and those who have higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 should eat or be fed in their own room, if possible.
- Do not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups or eating utensils. Non-disposable food service items that are used should be handled with gloves and washed with dish soap and hot water or in a dishwasher. [Wash hands](#) after handling used food service items.
- Use gloves when removing garbage bags or when handling and disposing of trash. [Wash hands](#).

Guests

Guests on campus will be limited to Benedictine students. Guests outside of the Benedictine community are not permitted within University Housing. All visitors must comply with the same guidelines as our residents. A well-check, hand washing, face masks and social distancing are mandatory for all guests while in BenU housing. Each resident may have up to one guest visit their assigned room at any one time.

Compliance

At any time, the University may request or require a resident to leave Benedictine housing if a resident's continued presence in the housing community poses a health or safety risk for community members. Residential students are required to comply if public health is at risk with requests and leave their assigned space due to COVID-19 or other public health emergencies. Failure to do so is a violation of residence hall policies.

University Housing FAQs

A list of frequently asked questions related to housing can be found on the main Benedictine University COVID-19 FAQs page [here](#).