



Return to Campus Mesa – University Housing (Mesa)

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 Senior Staff, Residence Life and Facilities Management (FM), in addition to recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), American College Health Association (ACHA) and State and local guidance.

Housing Capacity: Mesa

Overall, we have **reduced occupancy in our Residence Hall (Alhambra) by 25 percent** to accommodate safe distance amid the pandemic.

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 request a room change by emailing mesareslife@ben.edu.

Singles utilize community bathrooms. Suites have semi-private 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 suite will remain available and clean for use as a quarantine and isolation space in the case of illness.

- 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.).
- University staff will support students on a daily basis and assist in transferring to an off campus site for clinical evaluation if symptoms advance or the student requests.
- Residence Life staff can facilitate meal delivery at student expense.
- 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. Students should request additional assistance from residence life staff.
- 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 (available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-faq.html>).

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. Residential 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 the residence hall policies.

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

- 1) University representatives 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) Students will be provided with a personal cleaning supplies kit.
- 4) Facilities will preliminarily make up 5 kits that include: 2 rolls of toilet paper, 5 garbage bags, 2 rolls of paper towels, disinfectant, and cleaner solutions.
- 5) The student will self-monitor daily and University representatives will check in with the student daily.
- 6) The University will provide COVID-19 Testing site information for students and the student will be required to complete testing.
- 7) Students should schedule meal delivery via mobile app
- 8) Coordinate return to campus 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 that 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 since symptoms appeared and a minimum of 3 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.
- 9) In the event students are unable to go home to quarantine, the following guidelines will be followed.
 - 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 (RA)

Training

RAs will arrive on campus early. You will be personally notified about your move-in date.

- Training schedules and plans are being developed and will be emailed to RAs by August 10th
- Until RAs are on campus, all training, support services meetings will be held virtually.
- Outdoor meetings will also be scheduled to prepare BenU RAs
- If you are an RA, please contact the faculty in residence 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 4-day period**.
 - Until schedules are verified and communicated, please plan on a move-in date sometime between August 25-August 28.
 - International students can arrive early to acclimate time zones and also self-quarantine for two weeks prior to the start of the term. Students must schedule and receive confirmation of arrival and check in days/times.

- 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 (mesareslife@ben.edu). Subsequent and frequent detailed communication will follow to ensure students and RAs understand 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 10th for completion within 24hours of arrival. All residents will receive a Welcome Kit to provide direction on COVID-19 protocols, Housing Policies, Self-Assessment requirements. The kit will also include thermometer, a BenU branded mask and hand sanitizer.
- **We require all students to complete a daily self-assessment when on campus.**

Student Health Services

- **Valleywise Health, located adjacent to Gillett hall, can provide immediate access to medical care and testing and supportive care.**
- University staff 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 support that plan.

If a student is ill:

As resident students of Benedictine University you are never without help and support from your 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. **University representatives** will review the **Student Absence Reporting** form and make contact with 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) or Maricopa County Department of Public Health to seek further assistance.
4. If the University 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/ Maricopa County Department of Public Health. Contact tracing will be initiated by DuPage County Health department or Maricopa County Department of Public Health and follow up conducted through 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, 6-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. 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. 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 6-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, 6-foot minimum social distance.
 - Community bathrooms are appropriately marked for social distancing.
 - Floors will indicate social distance directions/traffic flow at common areas, entrances, restrooms, etc.

Shared Spaces in Residence Halls – Community Bathrooms & Lounges

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

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”
- 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.
 - 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 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 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.

Guests

Guest restrictions are in place and no overnight guests are permitted.

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 if COVID or other public health emergencies. Failure to do so is a violation of the residence hall policies.

Resources:

https://www.acha.org/documents/resources/guidelines/ACHA_Considerations_for_Reopening_IHEs_in_the_COVID-19_Era_May2020.pdf

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/shared-congregate-house/index.html>

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/05/21/cdc-releases-new-guidance-colleges-reducing-coronavirus-spread>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

<https://www.acuho-i.org/covid19?portalid=0>

https://www.ibhe.org/pdf/IBHE_Guidance_062220.pdf

Return to Campus (MESA) – University Housing FAQs

Benedictine has announced a hybrid learning experience through the BenUFlex plan, a blend of online and face-to-face instruction. On-campus housing will be open this fall and we will implement the necessary adjustments to campus life and implement necessary safety procedures to protect the health and well-being of our residential community.

What is being done to ensure it's safe to move back on campus?

Everything is being done according to the experts to ensure the safety of our resident students.

The University is hard at work to prepare a safe, "Six-Foot Campus" to cover all aspects of campus life, from residence halls to classrooms. Our Task Force teams' work is guided by higher education recommendations from the CDC, the American College Health Association, and public health authorities at the state, county and city level. (Please review our BenU Master "[Plan for a Safe Return to Campus](#)")

The health and safety of our entire BenU community is incumbent on everyone's commitment to "Protect the Flock: Healthy Hallmarks" pledge. As directed by expert advice, measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 include:

We will implement and enforce physical distancing, wearing of face coverings, hand washing and the frequent disinfection of our facilities and common areas.

- Residents will be educated on cleaning, hygiene and COVID-19 protocols frequently by staff and with highly visible signage.
- non-resident guests and visitors are asked to follow physical distancing protocols, wear face coverings, and frequently wash hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds.
- We have a rapid response plan in place to support residents and protect the BenU community. (see Housing Plan)

Promotion of health and safety behaviors (Protect the Flock: Healthy Hallmarks) and precautionary measures will be provided by residential programming via signage within all apartments, rooms and hallways to increase awareness and education. Campus buildings and exterior spaces will include directional and physical distancing signage to indicate directional flow and social-distancing protocols, as well as informational signage regarding health and well-being precautions in the [Safe Return to Campus Plan](#).

Every one of us must fully commit to protecting our collective health and well-being as it is incumbent on all of us to comply with CDC recommendations to keep BenU open and mitigate spread of the virus. In the face of extreme challenge, our community is resilient and stronger than ever.

What decisions have been made to on-campus housing?

The BenU COVID-19 Task Force have implemented a number of new policies for Residential Housing:

- Overall occupancy has been reduced by 25% allowing for the availability of additional single occupancy rooms if needed.
- Cleaning procedures have been adjusted to accommodate more frequent cleaning of shared spaces.
- A quarantine and isolation plan has been developed to maintain the safety of our community should residents be exposed or test positive for COVID-19.

Is there protocol for safe Move-in to the Campus Residences?

Yes, we are finalizing the specific plans now but it will include reserved time slots for each resident, reduced density efforts (e.g., limited number of move-in guests), check-in process with limited contact and designated traffic flow during the check-in process. **Move-in dates begin August 25 through Saturday, August 29.**

What if I was supposed to arrive early? Will there be an early move-in process for students?

Yes. We are finalizing the specific plan now. While we understand there is a need for some students to move in early, our approval process is based upon the recommendation of health officials. An early arrival approval will be made available to students required to be on campus leading up to the start of the school year and orientation initiatives.

Will there be social or physical distancing in the halls? How?

Yes, social distancing in the hallways is very important. Gathering is not allowed within the hallways or common areas. We expect students to do their part to create a safe community. We will follow a consistent standard of six feet of physical distance. At this point, we will treat roommates or suitemates as a family unit, thus allowing more than one occupant per residence hall room. Signage and

floor markings have been placed around campus to help with physical distancing within buildings. Hand sanitizer will be readily available in all buildings on campus.

Will lounges be open for student use?

No. We have decided to eliminate the use of common area spaces in the residence halls, like study spaces and lounges for the fall semester. Weather permitting, students are encouraged to socialize outdoors, while practicing physical distancing with friends and guests.

Plans for the spring have not yet been determined and dialog will continue to occur. As soon as the information is available, we will share it with you.

How will common areas be addressed by Facilities?

Facilities Management team has robust plan in place for regular cleaning and disinfection. In the common area bathrooms, lounges and laundry facilities, students should practice physical distancing and follow any additional posted guidelines for use. Common areas will be cleaned twice a day. Areas will include a standard cleaning in the morning and a deeper cleaning and sanitization in the evenings.

What will community-building look like this fall in the residence halls?

Resident Assistants (RAs) will host events to engage in smaller groups, allowing students on the same floor and in the same hall to build community and get to know one another. Additionally, students will have access to online platforms to engage, find content and connect with peers socially.

What are my responsibilities as a student living on-campus?

Student behavior can have the greatest impact on the spread – or the containment -- of COVID-19. Like everyone in the BenU Community, we are all responsible for our behavior and must all be respectful community citizens by following CDC recommendations. Resident students will must sign a Housing Health Policy Acknowledgement in addition to the housing agreement. This acknowledgement commits you to a number of practices that are vitally important, which may include wearing a face covering, observing physical distancing practices while in public spaces, and agreeing to self-quarantine and self-isolate directives lead by the University. All of these requirements are based on the current guidance from the CDC. If you have underlying health issues that you believe put you at a higher risk to COVID-19, living on campus in a dense community environment may not be the best choice at this time.

Expectations include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Keep your room (or apartment) clean – bring and maintain your own cleaning supplies.
- Wear face covering whenever you're outside your room.
- Practice physical distancing from others.
- Self-isolate if showing symptoms.
- Remember that this is an unusual time and you and/or others may feel anxious about what is going on.
- Be kind to one another and remember we are all in this together. #Bunited #ProtecttheFlock
- Review the [Plan for a Safe Return to Campus](#)

What items should I bring to campus?

Keep your belongings to a minimum and remember to bring extra face coverings/masks, plenty of personal hygiene, along with disinfecting and cleaning supplies for your room. While we do not set limits on the sizes or number of items you bring, we strongly encourage you to be conservative in choosing what to bring with you this year.

Will all students be required to vacate housing prior to Thanksgiving break, or are we allowed to stay through virtual finals?

Yes. As a result of COVID-19 and precautionary measures, University Housing will implement a similar model to the adjusted fall semester academic calendar. Fall semester occupancy dates will begin on move-in day and conclude on Saturday, November 28, 2020 at 12 p.m. On-campus housing will officially close beginning Sunday, November 29 through Winter Break. All residential students are required to leave housing by no later than 12 p.m. on Saturday, November 28 and should plan accordingly.

How will quarantine and isolation be handled on campus?

Our quarantine and isolation plan on campus follows the recommendations of local health and medical experts. We have set aside quarantine and isolation locations for our undergraduate residential community in case of a potential risk. If a resident student poses a health risk to community members and is required to self-quarantine or self-isolate, the University may require the student to leave campus housing and return home to self-isolate. Quarantine and isolation plans are being finalized for students living on-campus.

What if I decide to commute from home or live off-campus after reserving on-campus housing?

All cancellation requests must be submitted in writing. You can cancel your application and housing agreement by emailing mesareslife@ben.edu. Please note that **August 7 is the last day to cancel your housing reservation to avoid cancellation fees.**