Best Practices against COVID-19 for Residential Living

The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed. COVID-19 spreads from person to person, and can be spread by those who are infected but don't display symptoms. The CDC advises washing hands, avoiding close contact with others, and cleaning/disinfecting surfaces. Older adults and those with underlying chronic medical conditions should take extra precautions.

The CDC recommends use of non-medical, cloth-based face coverings in some public settings. Medical masks should be reserved for healthcare workers.

Students who are considered to be at a higher risk for severe illness as defined by Georgia Department of Public Health (GDPH) should carefully consider whether moving into a residence hall is the appropriate option.

In order to ensure continued good health, students are recommended to follow the guidelines below.

**Protect Yourself**

Social distance by staying at least 6 feet apart from others that you do not live with. Consider wearing cloth face coverings in any shared spaces, not including your room.

Know how it COVID-19 spreads
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use 60% based hand sanitizer when washing hands is not available
- Avoid close contact with other individuals
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others
- Cover coughs and sneezes should be protected by covering your mouth with your arm
- Clean and disinfect your individual bedrooms and common areas daily
- Seek medical attention if you should develop an unexplained dry cough and/or fever

**Shared kitchens, dining rooms, laundry rooms, bathrooms**

- Students should stay at least 6 feet apart from one another.
- Students who are sick, their roommates, and those who have higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 should eat in their bedrooms.
- Do not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, or eating utensils. The best practice is to use disposable plates, cups, and silverware.
- Never leave soiled dishes in the sink.
- Due to the laundry room being a confined space, only one student should be in the laundry room at a time.
- Students should avoid placing toothbrushes directly on counter surfaces. Totes should be used for personal items so they do not touch the bathroom countertop.

Students are encouraged to report any cleanliness issue to the Resident Director or Resident Assistant to ensure all resident apartments are in compliance of the Student Resident Handbook.

For additional information pertaining to the Coronavirus Disease, please visit the websites below:
- Georgia Department Public Health (GDPH): https://dph.georgia.gov/
- Peach County Health Department: https://www.peachcounty.net/health-department.cfm
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA): https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/controlprevention.html