To maintain a safe and healthy environment for students living in the residence halls during the COVID-19 pandemic, Housing and Residential Life is implementing additional policies in consultation with University Health Services. These new, temporary policies are intended to protect the residential community, prevent COVID-19 infections on campus, and help promote health guidelines as directed or recommended by health authorities. Content of the Handbook Addendum supersede applicable sections of the Resident Handbook 2020-2021.

Guidelines will be shared with students prior to, and repeatedly after, arrival on campus. Students will be expected to follow these guidelines strictly. Students’ collaboration and adherence to these guidelines is critical. While we will hope to appeal to students’ sense of responsibility in encouraging this behavior, student conduct and formal changes of housing policies will be articulated and strictly enforced. It is the student’s responsibility to remain informed, check their UMB email, and respond to staff contacts.

The cooperation of residents is an important factor in maintaining the health and safety of the residential community in the pandemic environment.

Residents are **required** to follow the regulations listed below.

I. **Sanitation and Hygiene**
   1. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
   2. Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and then dispose of the tissue and clean your hands immediately. If you do not have a tissue, use your sleeve (not your hands).
   3. Residents must properly wear their own masks/face coverings whenever they are outside of their assigned room.
   4. Keep adequate supplies for good hygiene in your bathroom (e.g., soap, toothpaste, shampoo, paper towels, and alcohol-based hand sanitizer if available).
   5. Keep adequate cleaning supplies. Clean and disinfect your room and bathroom regularly.
   6. Pay special attention to all frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as doorknobs, countertops, faucet handles, TV remotes, keyboards, and phones.
   7. Bag your garbage and drop it in the trash chute. Special handling is not required.
   8. Do not share objects or utensils (e.g., cups, cigarettes, vape pens and water bottles).

II. **Social Distancing**
   1. Practice social distancing at all times in and out of the residence hall. Whenever possible, including at work or in the community, avoid interacting closely (within 6 feet) or frequently enough to spread an infectious disease.
   2. Call or email Housing and other offices. Contact Housing and Residential Life staff by phone (business hours: 617-287-6011), text or email instead of by in-person visits.
   3. Adhere to maximum capacity signs for common spaces such as lounges, study rooms, and laundry facilities. Please note, lounges and study rooms will initially be closed.
III. Specific Guidelines and Restrictions

1. Residents must properly wear a mask or cloth face covering when they are not in their room. A mask or face covering must cover your nose and mouth.
2. Residents will be restricted from signing in guests to start the semester. Housing will communicate regarding guest privileges after consultation with UHS and assessing current health conditions. In the future, if guests are allowed in the residence halls, guests must adhere to all health guidelines and must wear a mask or cloth face covering while they are in the residence halls.
3. Adhere to common area restrictions and reduced capacities. Please note, lounges and study rooms will initially be closed.

IV. Staying Healthy

1. If you’re not feeling well, stay in your room. If you’re feeling ill, do not go to work and do not use public transportation.
2. If you feel symptomatic or are sick, call University Health Services (UHS) at 617-287-5660. You can reach a nurse or counselor 24/7.
3. Do not go to UHS, an Emergency Room, or urgent care setting without calling UHS first.
4. If you believe, or have been notified, that you have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19 immediately call UHS at 617-287-5660.

V. Additional Requirements

1. Do not allow any other residents in your room.
2. Do not enter other residents’ rooms.
3. Avoid staying elsewhere overnight.
4. Follow directions from residential staff on the use of support services (e.g. laundry room, lounges, deliveries, etc.)
5. To the extent possible, you should avoid large gatherings (e.g., events, malls).
6. Each resident should bring a mini refrigerator and microwave for their room to be prepared to be quarantined or isolated.
7. Residents are encouraged to limit their travel to the local area. Residents who travel outside of Massachusetts are required to report their travel and possibly quarantine upon return.
8. Do not congregate in large groups anywhere in the residence hall or elsewhere on or off campus.

VII. Periodic Self-Screening and Testing

As a condition of living in the residence hall, daily self-screening and weekly testing will be required of all residents. An initial COVID-19 test (onboard testing) will be required of all residents at move-in.

Residents will be tested weekly while they live in the residence halls. Residents who do not complete self-screening and testing requirements will lose ID access to the residence halls and may face additional ramifications.

VIII. Required Education

COVID-19 safety education, including online and virtual RA community meetings, is mandatory and will include instruction on social distancing, wearing face coverings, hand washing, hygiene, and sanitation.
IX. Quarantine & Isolation
The Center for Disease Control (CDC) defines isolation as separating sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick and quarantine as separating and restricting the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

**All residents will be required to quarantine upon arrival until they receive a negative COVID-19 test result from their onboarding test.**

Testing will occur upon arrival for move in.

Housing and Residential Life will continue to work very closely with UHS and must follow Massachusetts state guidelines, as a minimum, about the best personal protection practices to implement in the residence halls and monitoring students’ health.

Residents are required to immediately report feeling any COVID-19 symptoms to UHS.

After a health care provider’s evaluation, a resident may be required to quarantine or isolate in their room for an amount of time determined by UHS. Students who can travel in a private vehicle may elect isolation and quarantine in the comfort of their local home. Students living on-campus and who cannot travel home must quarantine or isolate in the residence hall.

X. Compliance
Residents are required to comply with all instructions from Housing and Residential Life and UHS. Non-compliance may pose a grave risk to themselves and others in the residence halls. Residents who do not comply face a variety of outcomes, including but not limited permanent removal from the residence halls.

VI. Dining
Residents are required to participate in a board meal plan. Meal options will always be available daily. Typically, residents are offered an all you care to eat option and eat in the Dining Commons on the first floor of Residence Hall East. To promote social distancing and maintain the health and safety of the community, Dining operations will be altered to meet health and safety considerations.

For example, residents may not be able to eat in the traditional dining room setting; tables and chairs may be set up to practice social distancing. Tables and chairs, if available, will be cleaned after each individual use. Residents may be required to pick up meals during specified hours and take meals to their rooms to promote social distancing. Sodexo employees will serve food items to residents; self-service will not be available which may limit residents’ ability to completely customize meal options. Every effort will be made to accommodate resident requests based on preference when possible. Honoring requests for customization may not always be possible. Options for those residents with allergies and dietary restrictions will be available.

Please check your UMB email daily for updated dining information. UMB Dining Services will update residents on dining arrangements as details are determined.
XI. Be Flexible and Ready for Changes
The pandemic environment is challenging everyone with new practices and standards. It will be no different in the residential community. The contents of this document are subject to change as circumstances warrant. The University and Housing and Residential will keep residents updated via UMB email. Residents must check their UMB email daily for important information and updates.