

Dear Residents,

This afternoon the Governor of the state of Idaho issued a 21-day stay-at-home order, which means that all Idaho residents must stay in their homes except to carry out essential functions like grocery shopping or medical treatment. This is to severely limit interactions between people and in so doing, to severely limit the spread of COVID-19. Adhering to this order is now the responsibility of every person in our state.

What does this mean for you?

- If you have not yet moved to your new housing, continue to plan to do so. Some buildings are still being cleaned, and as soon as we have the update that your new room is ready, we will let you know.
- You should primarily stay in your room. When you have contact with others, you need to limit exposure through keeping a distance of at least 6 feet. Please continue to email, text, call, video chat, and the myriad other ways you have to keep in touch. Remember to check in on your friends, and do not hesitate to reach out if you need support.
- Unfortunately, our kitchen spaces are limited and until the dining hall re-opens, it is a shared space. I will email out times that floor communities can be in the kitchen for food preparation starting tomorrow. Please observe your posted time. If you go to the kitchen and you see people in the space closer than 6 feet apart, check back later. If you don't need to be in the kitchen to prepare food, please go back to your room so others can be there. I know that this will be a challenge to navigate. Do your best, and feel free to reach out to a residence life staff member with concerns.
- Guests from off-campus are not allowed in residence halls.
- Quiet hours begin at 11 pm. This is both to re-inforce the necessity of physical distancing, and to allow all students quiet time to sleep. Now, more than ever, it is important that everyone have the rest necessary to successfully navigate these changes.
- RA staff will be reaching out to you in the next day to check in and start the process of building a new kind of residential community. We are still working on ways to cultivate this community. While these circumstances are difficult, I am grateful that we live at a time when technology affords us the ability to be innovative. I know we can find original, creative ways to connect. Ideas? Let your RA know.
- This situation and our understanding of it is rapidly changing, and will likely continue to do so. Thank you, in advance, for accommodating all the changes.

The Governor also made an exemption to the stay-at-home order for physical movement outside. So go for a walk, a run, or a bike ride and enjoy the fresh air. But please remember to stay at least 6 feet away from anyone else with whom you go.

The last two weeks have been full of unexpected changes, and if you are like me, adjusting to our new normal has been difficult, and at times, emotional. I am grateful for the patience, flexibility, and grace so many of you have shown. Your gratitude and positivity have been overwhelming.

Don't hesitate to contact me with questions. Please take care of yourselves and each other,

Jen

P.S. A few fun activities I've discovered:

Learn to Draw with Mo Willems (a well-known children's book author/artist):

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL14hRqdOPELGbKihHuTqx_pbvCLqGbOkF

Travel the World: <https://artsandculture.google.com/>

Zoos and Aquariums animal cams: <https://zoocamerasaroundtheworld.com/list-of-zoos-with-webcams/>



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