

Dear Current Residents,

Yesterday marked the first day of spring (vernal equinox), so it is fitting we talk about new beginnings.

😊 You will be receiving more information today from Residence Life regarding COVID-19 housing reassignment plans that will consolidate residents into fewer buildings, while also spreading students out within those facilities. The purpose of these changes is to free up space that might be needed for quarantine and isolation purposes, while also minimizing the risk of exposure.

In addition to these housing changes, there will be changes to food service operations, in order to right size our operations for the decreased number of residents, and to minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure. These changes are as follows:

- The Cruzen-Murray library coffee shop is closed for the remainder of the Spring Semester.
- Over Spring Break (March 21-28), the McCain Cafe will be open from noon to 6 p.m., and students can use flex, coyote cash, pre-purchased break week meal plan, cash, or credit card). As of March 29th, the McCain Café will close for the remainder of the Spring Semester.
- Over Spring Break, the Inclusion and Intercultural Engagement Department will also be purchasing groceries for students who would otherwise be food insecure. Contact Arnoldo Hernandez (ahernandez@collegeofidaho.edu) for more information.
- Simplot Café closes for Spring Break starting March 21, and reopens on March 29th. Upon reopening, Simplot will provide breakfast (8-10:00)/lunch (11-1:00)/dinner (5-7:00) Monday-Friday, and brunch (9-1:00)/dinner (5-7:00) on weekends through the remainder of the Spring Semester. Please note, meal times will be monitored, and students may be notified of slight adjustments in order to best accommodate schedules.
- All residents will be provided Meal Plan A (at no additional cost to the student) in order to ensure everyone has access to three meals a day.

In order to minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure in our dining facilities, one other very important change will occur. Beginning with the McCain Café over Spring Break and continuing with Simplot Café for the rest of the Spring Semester, the College will no longer allow dining in the seated areas of these facilities. Students will be served food in to-go containers, and will be asked to leave the premises to eat someplace where effective social distancing can be practiced, e.g. your residence hall room.

These are extraordinary times requiring us to invoke safety precautions that in normal times would be antithetical to our YoteFam community. We are acutely aware of this dichotomy, and ask for your understanding and cooperation with these changes.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Warmly,

Paul R. Bennion

VP for Student Affairs & Dean of Students