

Dear Residence Hall Students:

Due to the health and safety concerns that have been created by the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Southwest Minnesota State University, in cooperation with the Minnesota State System, has determined that the best course of action for the Department of Residential Life and its students is to reduce the number of individuals living in the residence halls. This will increase the safety of our students by decreasing direct student-to-student contact and increase the social distancing that has been deemed so critical to reducing the spread of this disease!

In order to accomplish this, Southwest Minnesota State has determined that:

1. Students should not return to live on-campus for Spring Semester 2020 if you have a safe alternative for housing, meals, and internet access, be it with friends or family. We recognize that not all students can return home or do not have a safe alternative (such as international students that cannot return home or students that would be homeless if not living in the residence halls). However, if you do have safe housing options we strongly encourage you to exercise those for your spring housing needs.
2. For those of you leaving the residence hall facilities and ending your contract, we ask that you check out and remove your belongings from your room by Sunday, April 5, 2020. Please contact your Resident Assistant (RA) or the Office of Residential Life at 507-537-6136 to schedule a time to check out of your room and remove your belongings. We have express check out available to further ensure social distancing.
3. Room and Board Refunds - Refunds will be prorated from March 15, 2020 unless you have lived in your room at any time past this date, in which your refund will then be based upon the date you check out of your room and remove your belongings. The amount of refunds or credits will be based on adjustments made to scholarships, and waivers, which will be prorated to your move out date also.
4. If you do not contact your RA or the Office of Residential Life and follow the proper check out procedures, you will be charged for the full semester.
5. For students that truly have no other alternatives, we will work diligently to provide you with residence hall accommodations. Please note that we may need to consolidate housing for all remaining students into one central facility or facilities. If you plan to live on campus, please communicate that with your RA or the Office of Residential Life at 507-537-6136 by March 27th, 2020.
6. If you are unable to return to campus to check out and remove your belongings by April 5th, please contact the Residential Life Office at 507-537-6136 to discuss your situation and make arrangements.

7. Please remember that your online courses begin on March 30th.

Given these unprecedented times, the primary goal of Southwest Minnesota State University is to ensure the safety and health of our students. We believe that significantly reducing the number of students living in the residence halls at this time is one of the best solutions.

Thank you very much for understanding and please feel free to contact the Residential Life Office with questions and for checkout procedures.

*Further Notes to Students:

If you are receiving a refund, you may elect to apply these funds to either Summer or Fall Semester classes! To do so, please contact the business services office at businessservices@smsu.edu.

If you continue to live in the residence halls, there will be meal availability in some format from Chartwells through spring semester.

If you have rented a College Products loft, please contact your RA for instructions and assistance.

Please continue to check the SMSU homepage at <https://www.smsu.edu/> and the SMSU COVID-19 web page at <https://www.smsu.edu/campuslife/healthservices/healthalerts/coronavirus.html> for the most current information.

Thank you very much!

Scott Crowell
Assoc. Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students
Southwest Minnesota State University
1501 State Street
Marshall, MN 56258
Phone: 507-537-6844
Fax: 507-537-6424