

Ref: OSA/2021/00

8 January 2021

All Students staying in Campus Residences

## COVID-19: UPDATED SAFE-DISTANCING MEASURES IN HALLS, RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES AND RESIDENCES

Dear Students

Please note the following updated guidelines for students staying in Halls, Residential Colleges and Residences. These supersede earlier circulars regarding the measures and will take effect from 10 January 2021.

1. Residents should
  - a. wear a mask when they leave their hostel rooms or when in a room with another person<sup>1</sup>
  - b. maintain a default of at least 1m safe distancing at all times
  - c. comply with online health and temperature declaration requirements prescribed by the University (*including days that they are staying off campus*)
  - d. download and use mobile apps as prescribed by the University
  - e. seek medical attention promptly if unwell and comply with instructions given; they should inform hostel authorities if they have been tested for COVID-19. They should report the results of their COVID-19 test results immediately to hostel authorities.
  - f. take necessary precautions with respect to hand and environmental hygiene.
2. Outside of the bedrooms and suites, social interactions between residents of the same hostel should comply with the following guidelines:
  - a. Residents may meet in groups of up to eight persons.
  - b. Several groups may meet within the same space with 2m distancing between groups wherever possible (minimum 1m)
3. Visitors who are residents of the same hostel are allowed in a resident's room, provided
  - a. no more than *one* visitor is present in the resident's room at any time.
  - b. no more than *five* persons are present in the living area in a suite at any time, and
  - c. masks are worn by all<sup>2</sup> and 1m safe distance is maintained.

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<sup>1</sup> The exceptions to this are when eating/drinking or during moderate or vigorous physical activity

<sup>2</sup> Students can take their masks off when eating or drinking but should keep them on at all other times.

4. When using common facilities and spaces within the hostel,
  - a. the maximum number of people within the space should provide for 1m safe distancing between individuals (e.g. for kitchens/pantries or small study rooms, the size of the space may dictate that fewer than 8 people may use it concurrently),
  - b. for large venues (e.g. communal or dining halls), no more than 50 persons should be present at any time, unless special provisions are made, and
  - c. a distance of 2m should be maintained between groups of 8 students when dining<sup>3</sup>.
  - d. For co-curricular and sports activities, additional requirements (see relevant guidance) should be complied with.
  
5. Non-resident visitors (*NUS staff or students only*) are allowed in *common areas* of the hostel premises (excluding resident's rooms) provided:
  - a. no more than two visitors may be hosted by a resident per day;
  - b. host and visitors comply with all measures aimed at allowing tracking in the event that a hostel wastewater sample tests positive. This includes keeping NUSafe turned on and complying with any additional measures instituted by the hostel. If swab testing is deemed necessary, visitors will be required to be tested as well;
  - c. masks are worn by all<sup>3</sup> and 1m safe distance is maintained.

Please be reminded that, as per current restrictions, non-NUS visitors are not allowed on hostel premises unless on official business and permission is granted by the Master in advance.

*Note that changes to these measures may be necessary in response to the situation in the community as well as to the outcome of ongoing surveillance activities such as swab testing and wastewater sampling.*

The sanctions framework for non-compliance with the above guidelines can be found in the demerit point structure document on the [OSA housing regulations website](#). Please note that students who repeatedly or egregiously breach the guidelines may also be referred to the Board of Discipline.

Thank you for your efforts to keep campus residences safer for all.

Office of Student Affairs

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<sup>3</sup> Students can take their masks off when eating or drinking but should keep them on at all other times.