

## FW: Additional Shelter in Place Information for Residents

iComm <[icomm@uwlax.edu](mailto:icomm@uwlax.edu)>

Sun 9/13/2020 4:18 PM

To: iComm <[icomm@uwlax.edu](mailto:icomm@uwlax.edu)>

Students, Faculty and Staff,

The following email was sent from Vice Chancellor Vitaliano Figueroa to resident (on-campus) students:

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**From:** Vitaliano Figueroa <[vfigueroa@uwlax.edu](mailto:vfigueroa@uwlax.edu)>

**Sent:** Sunday, September 13, 2020 4:07:19 PM

Dear Residents,

As was stated by Chancellor Gow, we will need to implement a shelter in place in all residence halls from now until September 28<sup>th</sup>. This timeline will be evaluated and amended, as needed, to flatten the curve of this virus.

The reason we are sheltering in place is because the number of confirmed and anticipated positive cases have risen quickly and we do not anticipate the number of quarantine and isolation bed spaces we have will accommodate the number of cases. Therefore, we need everyone to play their part within this community and reduce exposure points, as much as possible. Should you choose to return to your permanent home for this period of time, you may do so. However, please be advised it is recommended that you observe the quarantine in place so that you do not expose others at home and limit travel during this time while away from campus.

Living in a shared community does present challenges for a shelter in place. There are going to be situations where students who are carrying the virus, those who are close contacts, and those who have not been impacted with share living areas. We need you to help us reduce the germs in our community. Use the wipes in the common areas, wash your hands frequently, wear your masks, and limit your time in areas with other people.

There are many questions and concerns that are likely coming to mind for you. We are working to address those and ask for your continued patience as there are no easy or full-proof answers, with the exception of one: Can I cancel my housing contract and return home? The answer is yes. We will release you from your contract and will refund your housing costs on a prorated night-basis. We understand that not all members of our community are able to go home for various reasons. We will work with you and share how to stay on campus.

During the shelter in place you should remain in your room/apartment, as much as possible with only your assigned roommate(s). No other guests are allowed in your room/apartment. If you are COVID-Negative, you can leave your room to use the bathroom, retrieve meals or heat up meals. Students should only leave the building to retrieve meals, get prescriptions, groceries, go to work, or to do individual exercise. We are currently working on ways to be able to do laundry on a rotating basis. Your hall staff will communicate more details about this soon. Residence Hall Front Desk operations will be suspended. Continue to communicate with your RA virtually. (These new expectations will apply to Coate Hall, too.)

### Meals

Starting during dinner tonight (Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>) through dinner on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> grab and go meals should be picked up from Whitney Dining Center. (This does not apply to students in Coate or Wentz.)

Moving forward, meals will be available for pick up near your hall. There is one tent on the basketball court outside Coate Hall and another will be set up by Laux Hall. Your assigned tent will be sent to you by your Hall Director. (This WILL include Coate and Wentz students.) Breakfast will be served 8-9a, Lunch 11:30a-1p, Dinner 5-6:30p. Vegetarian and Vegan meals will be available. If you have specific dietary needs, please email Steve Martens at [smartens@uwlax.edu](mailto:smartens@uwlax.edu).

If you are feeling too ill to pick up your food, please call 608-386-3690, so that we can assist you with meals.

### Front Desk and Mail Operations

Desk operations will be suspended. Your hall staff will send out specific contact information for your building.

At this time, all mail deliveries (to campus) will be suspended. Any mail/packages that are already on campus, will be held at the Eagle Mail Center. If you believe there is a time-sensitive package currently in the Eagle Mail Center, please email [housing@uwlax.edu](mailto:housing@uwlax.edu) for assistance. We are working with USPS, FedEx and UPS to determine the next steps for holding or returning mail that has not reached campus yet.

### Housekeeping and Cleaning

As a reminder, there are self-cleaning supplies in the common bathrooms and areas in the halls. We encourage you to use these supplies to assist with the cleaning efforts of our housekeeping staff.

For Eagle and Reuter residents, housekeeping staff will not enter your suite/apartment to clean your bathroom during this time. Please plan accordingly to maintain expected levels of cleanliness amongst your suite/apartment-mates. In traditional halls, housekeeping will continue to service common areas and bathrooms.

### Testing

#### On campus COVID Testing

- Residence Life Antigen Screening: We will continue to provide screening antigen tests to residence life students without symptoms Monday through Friday in Cartwright. We are testing by hall and those selected for testing will receive an email the day before with a sign-up schedule. Please do not walk in for testing.
- PCR Testing: For those with symptoms and close contacts whose exposure was at least 5-7 days ago. Please do not walk in for testing but call ahead (608) 785-8558.

Note on-campus testing appointments may be limited as we are currently experiencing surge level demand. If you are able to utilize off-campus testing, your results may be available more quickly.

#### *Off Campus Testing:*

- When testing at our local health systems, be sure to CALL FIRST.
  - Gunderson Nurse Line: 608-775-4454
  - Mayo Nurse Line: 507-293-9525
- Next Free Community Testing Events:
  - Health & Human Services Building- 300 4th St. N. La Crosse, WI 54601
    - September 14th - 10am-6pm
    - September 21st - 10am-6pm
    - September 28th - 10am-6pm
  - Facebook Event: <https://bit.ly/2ZDoyVp>
  - Save time at the testing site! Pre-fill out paperwork while you wait in your car: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02721.pdf>.
  - This testing site is open to anyone who is currently experiencing any of the following symptoms or those who have been a contact of a positive COVID-19 case, ages 5 and up.
    - Fever
    - Cough
    - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
    - Chills or repeated shaking with chills
    - Muscle pain
    - Headache
    - Sore throat
    - New loss of taste or smell

#### **Expectations for Residential Students regarding COVID STATUS**

*If you are COVID-positive, you should:*

- Self-isolate in your rooms, Limit trips out of your room to meal pick up, using the bathroom, and doctor or medical visits; You should not go to work
- Answer your phone, even unknown numbers, as UWL staff will be checking in with you
- Continue to monitor your symptoms
- Travel alone to pick up your meals each day
- Be prepared that we may still ask you to move to an isolation space
- Continue to follow safety practices such as physically distancing, masking, and good hand hygiene.

*If you are COVID-negative, you should:*

- Follow any directions given to you by Student Health Center Staff about completing a quarantine
- If you are in quarantine you should limit trips from your room to essential trips only (this can be to get medication/prescriptions and groceries)
- Continue to monitor your symptoms and call the COVID Hotline if you become symptomatic

*If you have not been tested yet, you should:*

- Monitor your symptoms
- Call the COVID Hotline if you become symptomatic or if you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive
- Continue to follow safety practices such as physically distancing, masking, and good hand hygiene.

*If your roommate is COVID-positive and you are negative or haven't been tested, you should:*

- Follow any directions given to you by Student Health Center Staff about completing a quarantine
- If you are in quarantine, you should limit trips from your room to essential trips only
- Continue to monitor your symptoms and call the COVID Hotline if you become symptomatic
- Continue to follow safety practices such as physically distancing, masking, and good hand hygiene.

*If you live in a building with community bathrooms, you should:*

- Continue to follow safety practices such as physically distancing, masking, and good hand hygiene.

For anyone who is COVID-Negative, you should communicate with your employers and explain the situation to seek additional guidance. The CDC recommends that if you have been exposed to COVID-19, you should shelter in place and observe the guideline outlined. Please continue to follow their advice regarding reporting to work.

#### **Policies**

As a reminder, all residence hall (and COVID-19 specific) policies and the University Code of Conduct still applies to you while on campus. You are expected to know and follow all campus policies. University staff will be doing rounds in the building and addressing behavior concerns. In addition, you are welcome to report concerns about other residents as well. Please document as much as you can, including the names of individuals involved and send an email with the necessary information to your Hall Director. Should you be found responsible for any policy violation during this time, your housing contract may be cancelled and your status as a student will be reviewed.

#### **Rec Sports Support**

Rec Sports will be offering a wide variety of activities to keep you active and engaged, virtually. To learn more, check out our [social media channels](#) and [website](#) where additional information will be posted soon. Win cool prizes by participating in our highlight of the day. Activities include:

## Fitness & Wellness

- Virtual group fitness classes
- Virtual daily workouts
- Total body campus challenge
- Wellness and meditation tips

## Outdoor

- Trailhead spotlight
- Scavenger hunt with photo contest
- Virtual explore earth

## Sports-related

- Video challenge – touchdown celebrations
- Photo challenge – team's biggest fan
- Esports – NBA 2K, Fortnite, Rocket League, Super Smash Bros.
- Sports trivia and riddles

## Events

- Video challenge - Tournament of Laughs
- Bingo and trivia contests
- 7-day move challenges

## Resources and Questions

We know this is very challenging and may cause overwhelming feelings and concerns. Please see the information below regarding additional services and support:

### *The Counseling and Testing Center*

The Counseling & Testing center (CTC) is providing telemental health services, via telephone and secure video platforms. This includes Urgent Care (Mon-Fri 2:00-4:00) for students experiencing a mental health crisis, such as thoughts of suicide.

Knowing that COVID-19 has changed both the needs and resources of students, we are offering specific support group experiences for management of anxiety and depression, including the challenges of living through a pandemic. We will be sending you more information about our group offerings this week. Please see our website (<https://www.uwlax.edu/counseling-testing/>) for up-to-date information about accessing services, and for self-help resources: <https://www.uwlax.edu/counseling-testing/self-help/>.

### *Student Life Office*

The Student Life Office will not be engaging in-person appointments until September 28<sup>th</sup>. All services will be available through virtual appointment only.

*Advocacy & Empowerment:* Students experiencing distress and who may be seeking advisement on class experiences or concerns, communication with faculty, or withdraw from UWL can visit the [BOOKINGS PAGE](#) to schedule an appointment with a staff member.

*Student Conduct:* Those being called to address a student conduct concern with the university can make an appointment [HERE](#).

*Wellness & Health Advocacy:* The office will continue to promote and support COVID-19 initiatives and other student health programming on social media and other platforms. BASICS appointments and appointments to answer other wellness-related questions can be made on their [BOOKINGS PAGE](#).

*Violence Prevention:* Our Violence Prevention Specialist remains available for students needing advocacy and support. Appointments for support or to schedule education sessions or prevention can be made [HERE](#).

*New Student and Family Programs:* The office is continuing to support the new student experience. New student and parents who may have specific COVID-19 questions are encouraged to refer to the university's COVID-19 website [FAQs](#) for answers. Unanswered questions can be directed to the "Ask a question" [LINK](#) on that site, as well. NSFP also encourages families to look for updates on the parent and family Facebook group. You can join [HERE](#).

All other questions can be directed to our Student Life Office at (608)785-8062.

**If you have health related questions or concerns, please contact the COVID-19 Hotline 608-785-8559.**

If you have Residence Life specific questions or concerns, please email [housing@uwlax.edu](mailto:housing@uwlax.edu) or call 608-785-8075.

Kind regards,

Vitaliano Figueroa  
Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs

Jenni Brundage  
Director of Residence Life