

March 13, 2020

Dear Residence Hall Students,

While the University and the residence halls will remain open and no diagnosed cases have occurred in La Crosse County, the change in the University schedule is to address our response to COVID-19 as a public health issue. While we highly encourage students to live at their permanent residence beginning March 13 through April 12, we recognize that some students may be unable to return to their permanent residence for various reasons and will need to stay in their residence halls. For instance, some international students will not be able to return home at this time; some students may be unable to access online classes in their home location; some may need to stay at UWL for other reasons.

In order to serve those who are on campus best, we ask that you let us know your plans by completing a [short online form](#). Please indicate if you will be staying on campus at any point between March 13 and April 12. If your plans change, complete the form again with updated information. We will share this information with various campus partners such as dining services so they are fully prepared for the number of students planning to be on campus.

ID access to the residence halls will remain active during the break and during the period for online-only classes. Please understand that the living environment will not offer the same services that exist when we are in full session. Front desk hours will decrease, and student staff presence will be minimized due to the decrease in student staff on campus. Our primary focus will be to maintain a high-level standard of cleanliness, safety and security for all residence halls. Students who are involved in policy violations may be asked to leave the residence halls immediately. While dining operations will remain open, we should anticipate a shift in operation as well.

As shared in the message from Chancellor Gow, "If students wish to be away from campus during this time, we encourage them to take any materials or equipment necessary for their classes, including textbooks, laptops and DUO fobs. Students should also consider taking any personal essentials, such as medications."

In addition, it's important when talking about COVID-19 that we are careful of the language that we are using. Fears of the outbreak can fuel xenophobia and racist actions, behavior, and rhetoric as a wave of panic spreads. Racism and xenophobia are not UWL or UWL Residence Life values.

Again, please indicate on our [form](#) if you will be staying on campus at any point between March 13 and April 12. If your plans change, complete the form again with updated information.

Continue to check back on our [Residence Life website](#) and the University website for updates. Just a reminder that good practices to protect yourself from the corona-virus are:

1. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
2. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
4. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
5. Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care. If you require medical care, please call in advance of your arrival.
6. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

We will reach out in the future if any of this information changes. Please continue to check your UWL email and the Residence Life website for updates.

Dr. Heidi Anderson-Isaacson
Interim Director of Residence Life- University of Wisconsin-La Crosse