Fall 2020 Reduced Occupancy - Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why did Loyola University Chicago decide to reduce to single occupancy by bedroom?
   In order to maintain appropriate social distancing in support of public health, the University has decided that residence halls will be single occupancy by bedroom for the 2020-2021 academic year. This decision was an outcome of the member/multi-discipline working group made of more than 300 people that issued recommendations and plans for a return to campus operations. This working group considered the impact of public health recommendations and government restrictions, while still allowing for an on-campus experience. Recently published guidelines from the American College Health Association, titled “Considerations for Reopening Institutions of Higher Education in the COVID-19 Era,” recommend single occupancy in campus residence halls.

2. Why are first year students being given priority on campus?
   Based on the limited space on campus created by the decision to move to single occupancy, it was unfortunately clear that we could only accommodate about half of our normal on-campus population. The decision to prioritize first year students ultimately was made to in order to provide support for a population of young adults who need more resources as they transition to college, often away from home for the first time. The University is also providing resources for our upperclass and graduate students to ensure that they can find an affordable place to live.

3. Since I won’t be able to remain in on-campus housing, what resources are available to me for alternative housing near campus?
   Students with canceled contracts will be provided resources on how to find other accommodations (tentatively to include university owned housing in the neighborhood and university sponsored hotel accommodations). Additional information will be shared as resource details become available.

4. When will my prepayment be refunded?
   Prepayments will be refunded no later than the start of the Fall semester, though we will process the refunds soon as possible. Any student who had their housing assignment or application canceled (voluntarily or involuntarily) will receive a refund. If a student did not make a prepayment (because they received a prepayment waiver, for example), they will not receive a refund.

5. As a first year student, I was so excited to have a roommate and make friends on my floor. How will social distancing impact my first-year experience?
   Residence Life will still have resident assistants living on campus to help maintain community standards and to create community through co-curricular events and programs. These events may look a bit different this year due to social distancing, but we still intend to provide a robust on-campus experience.

6. Since Residence Life has decided to move to single occupancy by bedroom in the residence halls, does that mean all classes will be held in person for the fall semester?
Decisions around the format of fall semester classes have not yet been finalized and are subject to change based on public health recommendations and requirements from the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago. Loyola hopes to be able to communicate its intended plan by the end of June.

7. **What will my single occupancy bedroom be like?**
   Most of our spaces on campus are set up to accommodate at least two students, so your single occupancy room will likely have at least two sets of furniture in it. We do not have the staff or storage space to remove furniture from rooms, so we suggest the following ways to take advantage of this unique situation.
   - **Instead of bringing extra furniture, utilize ours.** Instead of bringing a TV stand, use the extra desk or dresser in your room. Instead of bringing a futon, use the extra bed in the room and make a day bed/couch out of it.
   - **Push your twin beds together to make a King Size* bed.** *pushing two regular size twin mattresses together almost match the dimensions of a king-sized bed. King size bedding will be about five inches longer than the dimensions of two twin-sized beds pushed together
   - **Utilize bunking and lofting.** Since we cannot remove furniture, think about lifting the furniture up to create more floor space. Residence Life provides the service of bunking or lofting most types of beds before you arrive. Go to our bunking and lofting webpage to get more information about pricing and examples of room layouts. [https://www.luc.edu/reslife/resources/studentresources/bunkinglofting/](https://www.luc.edu/reslife/resources/studentresources/bunkinglofting/)

8. **What will cleaning and sanitation efforts look like in the residence halls?**
   Community bathrooms in buildings like Campion, Mertz, de Nobili, and San Francisco will be deep-cleaned daily, with sanitation of high-touch surfaces happening multiple times per day. Semi-private suites in Simpson and St. Joseph Halls will be deep cleaned on a weekly basis; any additional cleaning of surfaces is the responsibility of the students. Students will be responsible for cleaning bathrooms that are internal to their unit (apartments, suits in Francis, Messina, and Regis). Students should come to campus prepared to provide cleaning supplies for semi-private and private bathrooms (including toilet paper).
   Other high-touch areas—like entrance doors, elevator buttons, and reception desks—will be cleaned multiple times per day. It will be highly recommended that students regularly wash their hands with soap and water (or hand sanitizer where soap and water are not available). Cloth masks will be mandatory in public areas on campus (as social distancing won’t always be possible).

9. **Will I have to share a bathroom?**
   Bathroom facilities vary by building. Students in traditional style rooms (Campion, Mertz, de Nobili, and most rooms in San Francisco) have a common bathroom or bathrooms on each floor. These bathrooms will be cleaned professionally according to the standards outlined in Question 7. Students in suite style rooms (Messina, Simpson, Francis, and part of San Francisco) will share bathrooms with four-to-six students. Students in apartment-style rooms, Regis, and the singles in Francis and Messina halls will not share a bathroom.

10. **What will it cost to live in a single occupancy bedroom space?**
    We are currently developing an adjusted rate structure for students living on campus. While the rates are not yet finalized, we want students to know we are not considering charging students the single room rates that were established for 2020-2021 prior to the pandemic.
11. If I am assigned to an apartment, will I need a meal plan?
   All first and second year students living on campus are required to have a meal plan. As detailed dining information is available, we will notify students.

12. I have an accommodation with the Student Accessibility Center. Can I have priority to live on campus?
   Only those students with a physical need to be on campus will be given priority (for example, a student who cannot physically commute to campus).

13. Can I have a roommate if I forgo the public health guidelines?
   No. Students will not be permitted to have roommates in rooms determined to be single occupancy for the 2020-2021 year. Students will only share living spaces where they are able to have their own bedrooms – some quads and quints.

14. When can students move in?
   Move in for Fall 2020 will coincide with the start of in-person courses. Information about move-in will be emailed to students with bookings. Look for the Move-in Manual in mid-July.

15. Why isn’t Residence Life keeping my room assignment the same?
   Contracts for the 2020-2021 academic year opened in February 2020. At that time, we could not yet have foreseen the impact that COVID-19 would have on our communities and University. Section G of the 2020-2021 housing agreement explains that assignments may be canceled in the interest of health and the welfare of students. At this time, we cannot safely invite students to live in roommate groups.

16. When will juniors/seniors/grad students be able to move back to campus?
   Residence Life is following the guidance of local public health professionals, including the City of Chicago and the Chicago Department of Public Health. When it is safe to return to our normal occupancy, we will do so.