

**East Tennessee State University Housing and Residence Life  
2021-2022 COVID-19 Wellness Notice**

**By executing a Housing/Dining/Buccaneer Ridge Apartment Agreement, student agrees to and accepts all terms and conditions included within the Agreement and this Notice, which includes information about COVID-19 and acknowledgement of risk. To review the East Tennessee State University agreements, visit <http://www.etsu.edu/housing>.**

**All sections of this Notice are considered formal requirements and part of East Tennessee State University Housing and Residence Life policies for the 2021-2022 academic year. Failure to follow ETSU Housing and Residence Life requirements may result in loss of privileges and/or disciplinary action, up to and including suspension of the Housing Agreement.**

**Health and Safety of Campus Residents**

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to be spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state, and local health agencies and governments have recommended a number of preventative measures. **Although East Tennessee State University has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, East Tennessee State University cannot guarantee that you will not become exposed to or infected with COVID-19 while living in on-campus facilities. Further, living on campus could elevate the risk of contracting any contagious illness simply due to the dense populations in the residence halls.**

East Tennessee State University (ETSU) is intending on being fully open and operational for the 2021/2022 academic year, but does reserve the right to continue the implementation of the measures listed herein and make necessary adjustments as necessary to comply with federal/state/local requirements. The health and safety of our residents is of primary importance to us, and we are/will take a number of actions as a department to address your health and safety and to reduce the spread of COVID-19. As of right now, our plans include:

- Increased cleaning and scheduled closing to disinfect common area spaces.
- Providing resources for students to self-clean or wipe down kitchens, bathrooms, laundry facilities, and other common areas.
- Increasing the number of hand sanitizing stations in campus residence halls.
- Adjusting the guest policy to allow for residents to have guests.
- Modifying room change policies to minimize the number of residents changing housing assignments during the academic year.
- Assigning roommates to double occupancy rooms.
- Implementing a modified residential programming model that adheres to CDC social distancing guidelines.
- Encouraging resident social distancing and other personal hygiene practices, including implementation of a facial covering policy in campus residence halls.
- Relocating any affected students to another room, hall, or other location in the event of a required self-quarantine or isolation as determined by campus and local health authorities.

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**ETSU RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACT AS NEEDED AND IMPLEMENT ANY PROCEDURES THE UNIVERSITY  
DEEMS NECESSARY TO REDUCE THE RISK OF SPREAD OF COVID-19.**

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Due to the fluid nature of the pandemic, we are continuing to engage in conversations with our campus partners and reviewing best practices and guidelines from the State of Tennessee and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) about how to continue to maintain a healthy on-campus environment.

Although, there are a lot of unknowns at this point, East Tennessee State University Housing and Residence Life is strategizing cleaning, programming, and distancing initiatives to try and prevent the spread of the disease, while still providing the community and support you expect from us. It is the expectation of East Tennessee State University that all members of our community will act with the best interests of the community and of public health during this period of uncertainty.

### **Resident Actions and Expectations**

There are several new expectations for every student living on-campus. These responsibilities are outlined below and are subject to change as CDC and state/local public health recommendations change.

Students who live on campus should:

- Practice good hand hygiene by either washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or by using alcohol-based hand sanitizer which contains at least 60% alcohol
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home if you are feeling sick and contact the University Health Center regarding your symptoms
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your sleeve when coughing or sneezing
- Clean and disinfect frequently-touched objects and surfaces
- And practice social distancing strategies, as recommended.

### **Guests**

For the safety of themselves and the greater community, ETSU Housing and Residence Life has established these amended guest policies.

- Guests are permitted in a residence hall/apartment space, only if, agreed to by other resident(s) in the roommate agreement.
- Guests are permitted in resident rooms/apartments.
- Not more than one guest is permitted per residence hall/apartment room at a time.

Events, functions, or other gatherings in or outside the residence halls will be permitted, as long as, they are coordinated or approved by ETSU Housing and Residence Life or a designated campus partner.

### **Room Changes**

Room assignments will be approved on an exception-only basis after the start of the fall semester, with an understanding that roommate consistency is a priority for the safety of all residents. Individuals who seek

to request a room change after move-in should contact the main Housing and Residence Life office at 423-439-4446 or [assignments@etsu.edu](mailto:assignments@etsu.edu).

### **Social Distancing**

Social distancing is defined as:

- Maintaining at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and others as often as possible.
- Following the directions of state and local leadership, East Tennessee State University, and federal guidelines at all times, regarding events, gatherings, or meetings.
- Adhering to the posted occupancy guidelines for common spaces.

Social distancing should be practiced whenever possible. This includes, but is not limited to, in student rooms, lounge areas, bathrooms, kitchens, and lobby areas. Furniture in common spaces will be configured to promote social distancing efforts and should not be moved. In some instances, public areas in the halls may be closed to limit gatherings. Students should not gather in hallways or stairwells.

### **Hand Washing and Hygiene Practices**

All students are required to comply with public health guidelines in regards to hygiene-related best practices – including hand washing. If there are low supplies or concerns about soap and paper towels, students should contact Housing and Residence Life.

East Tennessee State University Housing Facilities will perform enhanced cleaning of common areas, bathrooms, hallways, kitchens, and laundry facilities. Students living on campus who create unhygienic situations, who are non-compliant with public health guidelines, or choose not to clean for themselves will be contacted by the Housing and Residence Life department and may be removed from on-campus housing as indicated above.

Please follow the handwashing tips from the CDC on how to protect yourself from COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds – especially after you have been in a public place or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.

### **Facial Covering Use**

All residents and guests are expected to wear a facial covering in all areas of the residence halls/apartments, except for the privacy of your room. Refer to the [ETSU Bucs are Back! website](#) for additional information. Students are asked to review the [CDC guidelines for wearing a facial covering](#). Facial coverings worn correctly follow the guidelines below:

- Wash your hands before putting on your facial covering
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin

- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily
- Keep the covering on your face the entire time you are out of your individual residence hall room
- Do not put the covering around your neck or up on your forehead
- Do not touch the facial covering once on your face, and, if you do, wash your hands.
- Follow proper protocol for removing your facial covering when at home

### **Illness**

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, difficulty breathing) and/or have come into contact with a confirmed COVID-19 patient, stay home and contact your health care provider or the University Health Center at [423-439-4225](tel:423-439-4225) (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) or after-hours at 1-888-915-7299.

Do not go to a health care facility before you have called your provider.

Students who develop signs or symptoms of COVID-19 as enumerated by the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) **must contact the ETSU University Health Center** within one (1) business day and self-isolate. Self-quarantine means NO human contact with ANYONE, including friends, family, and especially going out in public. Remember, if your symptoms are mild, this does not mean you cannot spread the virus to someone else and put others at severe risk.

### **Isolation/Quarantine**

In some cases, University Health Center or another medical professional may deem it necessary for a student to self-isolate or quarantine. During the isolation/quarantine period, the student(s) self-isolating should avoid all unnecessary contact with others – both direct and indirect.

As a result, ETSU Housing and Residence Life reserves the right to move a student from their assigned residential space into a space deemed appropriate for isolation or quarantine. Residents will have the option to relocate to off-campus housing during the isolation/quarantine period, but if they remain on campus they must follow all communicated policies and procedures to ensure the safety of themselves and other residents. Students who are required to isolate/quarantine must have NO human contact with ANYONE, including family, friends, other residents, and going out in public. Meal delivery will be coordinated for students placed in isolation/quarantine. Failure to follow ETSU Housing and Residence Life requirements may result in loss of privileges and/or disciplinary action, up to and including suspension of the Housing Agreement.

The period of isolation period will be determined on a case-by-case basis by medical professionals.

### **Asymptomatic COVID- 19 Testing**

All residents may be required to submit to asymptomatic COVID-19 testing at set intervals as determined by the University. Specific asymptomatic testing requirements will be communicated to residents as information becomes available.

## **COVID-19 Vaccines**

While the COVID-19 vaccine is being administered under emergency use authorization, it will not be required for residents of ETSU housing. However, if and when the COVID-19 vaccine achieves FDA approval, all residents may be required to show proof of vaccination, or exemption from vaccination. Specific vaccination requirements will be communicated to residents as information becomes available.

## **Campus Resources**

We recognize that this is a stressful and unprecedented time. There are several resources on campus, in addition to ETSU Housing and Residence Life, who are ready and willing to assist. For the most-current information on the coronavirus pandemic, regular updates and a list of common questions and answers, please visit the Bucs are Back! website at <https://www.etsu.edu/coronavirus/>.

## **Move-In 2021**

To promote social distancing, students will sign up for a move-in timeslot. ETSU Housing and Residence Life will communicate directly with students to approve move-in times via emails to student's ETSU email. Students will be permitted to bring not more than two (2) additional people to assist them with the move-in process. All students are required to adhere to the approved move-in time to ensure proper social distancing. All students and guests will be required to wear a facial covering for the duration of the move-in process. Students and guests are asked to bring their own masks to be used during the move-in process; however, ETSU Housing and Residence Life will have disposable masks readily available for those who do not bring their own.

On the day of move-in, students and guests are asked to self-screen prior to arriving on campus. If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, difficulty breathing) and/or have come into contact with a confirmed COVID-19 patient, you should NOT come to campus, and should contact our office at 423-439-4446 to discuss alternative move-in date options.

To limit interaction of individuals traveling in opposite directions, hallways and stairwells will be designated as single directional, as able, to create a flow throughout the building. Students and guests should practice social distancing in elevators and hallways to the extent possible. Move-In carts will be available for resident use, with sanitization materials provided throughout the move-in period.

In preparation for resident move-in, all required documentation must be submitted to the University prior to arrival. These documents include:

- Meningitis vaccines (required for those under-22 years of age)
- Emergency contact and missing persons forms
- Uploading of a photo to the ID Services portal (for new students)

## **Release and Waiver**

I release the State of Tennessee, and ETSU, its Board of Trustees, administrators, officers, employees, and representatives from any and all liability for any and all claims, demands, and causes for any and all loss of property, illness, personal injury, or death, arising out of, resulting from, occurring during, or in

any way connected with or caused by negligence or gross negligence of the Releases while I reside in the ETSU Residence Halls and Apartments and frequent any other premises owned or leased by ETSU during the pandemic.

### **Indemnity, Hold Harmless, and Waiver**

I agree to indemnify and hold harmless, waive, and covenant not to sue the State of Tennessee, ETSU, its Board of Trustees, administrators, officers, employees, and representatives for any and all liability for the illness, personal injury, or death of any person(s) and damage to property that may result from my negligent, grossly negligent, or intentional act or omission while residing in the ETSU Residence Halls/Apartments during the pandemic. It is my express intent that this Covenant Not to Sue and Agreement to Hold Harmless shall bind me, and my personal representatives, estate, heirs, successors, and assigns, and shall be governed by the laws of the State of Tennessee.

### **Force Majeure**

Student understands that ETSU assumes no responsibility for any delays or failure to perform any terms or conditions of the Agreement or Addendum due to a force majeure, including, but not limited to, fire, earthquake, hurricane, flood, severe storms, acts of God, strikes or labor disputes, riots or civil disturbances, war, national emergency, terrorism, threats of sabotage or terrorism, explosions, plagues, epidemics, pandemics, acts of governmental authorities, or any other occurrence beyond the University's reasonable control. In the event of a force majeure, the University reserves the right to modify, suspend or terminate housing accommodations and access to dining services, and may not reimburse or prorate charges related to room and board. Any failure or delay in performance because of force majeure will not relieve Student of the obligation to pay any amounts owed under this Agreement and Addendum.

### **Miscellaneous I**

Student agrees to comply with all University policies, rules, regulations, conditions, and financial terms of the University, including, but not limited to, all public health requirements related to COVID-19 issued by federal, state, and local authorities as they may be updated from time to time.

### **Miscellaneous II**

ETSU Housing and Residence Life reserves the right to adjust or amend policies and procedures as needed or warranted.

### **Binding Effect**

This release, waiver, and indemnity agreement shall bind my personal representatives, estate, heirs, successors, and assigns

### **Acknowledgement of Understanding**

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