

Sample Fall 2020 COVID Strategy

The COVID Pandemic has fundamentally altered the higher education landscape. The University of Maine is working to ensure a safe environment for students to return this fall and by result, we have the obligation to provide a safe living environment for those students who live in our shelter.

The Fall 2020 academic term will be different in a variety of ways. Some changes may be profound and unlike anything experienced in recent memory. Chapter members, alumni, parents, and all those associated with Delta Tau Delta at the University of Maine are asked to be patient and understanding as we all seek to be safe, accommodating with the focus on the education of our students

The following plan is proposed as our strategy moving forward.

What is COVID-19 & How Is It Spread

COVID-19 is the disease caused by SARS CoV-2, one of seven types of known human coronaviruses. COVID-19, SARS, and MERS are the three that can cause serious illness; the remaining four known coronaviruses are responsible for many cases of the common cold in adults and children. Symptoms in patients with confirmed COVID-19 can range from mild to severe respiratory illness with the most common symptoms being persistent cough, fever, fatigue, muscle aches, sore throat, headaches, etc.

COVID-19, like other viruses, can spread between people through their respiratory droplets when they talk, cough or sneeze. Infection can occur when these droplets are inhaled into the lungs. It can also be transmitted when an individual touches a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then touches their mouth, nose, or eyes. According to the CDC, person-to-person spread is most likely among close contacts (about 6 feet) for >15 minutes.

Importance of Communication

Communication during any crisis is crucial, and obviously more important during a global pandemic, in which conditions are changing. It is of utmost importance that communication lines are open between the National Housing Corporation of Delta Tau Delta and Chapter leadership and the following entities:

- University officials: It is important that both the National House Corporation and Chapter is communicating with the Josh Stanhope in the Center for Student Life as appropriate.
- Local public health authorities.

- The Delta Tau Delta Central Office.
- Parents and members. It is important that the House Corporation and Chapter are in open and continual communication with each other in order to share information regarding all aspects of the Shelter's operation. Furthermore, it is critical that the House Corporation and Chapter are on the same page regarding communication with members and their parents to ensure that expectations to live in the Shelter during the pandemic are accepted by the members and their parents.

NOTE: The Gamma Nu shelter is owned by the National Housing Corporation of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity, based in Fishers, Indiana. It is managed locally by Maine Real Estate Management (Bangor, ME).

Expectations of Tenants

Members moving into the shelter should monitor their daily symptoms 14 days prior to returning to school. If you exhibit symptoms, do not return to the shelter.

Follow and adhere all CDC/Federal/State/University of Maine guidelines.

Abide by rules and guidelines as outlined in this document.

Access to the Shelter

August move-in will be staggered to allow maximum social distancing of tenants and those assisting them. Chapter leadership will coordinate this schedule and communicate it to those living in the shelter.

Access to the shelter is limited to initiated and new members of the Gamma Nu Chapter.

The basement kitchen is closed this fall. The National Housing Corporation and chapter leadership will review this prior to the start of spring semester.

Chapter leadership is tasked with the implementation of the shelter access policy.

This access policy will be reviewed periodically and at the beginning of the spring 2020 term.

Cleaning the Shelter

The shelter will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized prior to students returning in August.

Weekly, cleaning will occur in common areas and bathrooms with particular focus on sanitizing surfaces.

The chapter is expected to clean common areas of the shelter as necessary throughout the week. Cleaning of individual sleeping rooms is the responsibility of each tenant residing in that room.

Chapter leadership is expected to notify the Delta Tau Delta Central Office if any tenant or member tests positive for COVID-19. In this case, additional cleaning may be required.

Testing

Members should educate themselves about COVID-19 symptoms and preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the Shelter and/or community at-large.

Testing is a matter of personal preference and community availability. The Fraternity recommends that members come to their own decision regarding testing and contact the State or other relevant authorities for additional information. If a test comes back positive, the member should contact the Chapter, university, and a medical professional ASAP. The Chapter will alert the Central Office. Central Office staff and Chapter leadership will adhere to all HIPAA requirements.

Similarly, should a member come in close contact with anyone that later tests positive, it is their duty and obligation to contact the Chapter, university, and a medical professional ASAP. The Chapter will alert the Central Office.

Quarantining Infected Individuals

All rooms in the shelter are rented for the fall term. There are no private bathrooms in the shelter. If a tenant tests positive for COVID-19, that tenant should be isolated from others in the shelter although this is not ideal. Alternative accommodations are preferred since there are no open rooms available. If an infected tenant occupies a single, he could self-isolate in his room however, adequate/private bathroom facilities are not available. Therefore, it is recommended that the infected tenant either:

- Move home with family for the period of isolation or;
- Contact the University of Maine for suitable space or;
- Utilize outside facilities such a hotel if not other options are available.

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the member who is infected to make an informed and wise decision by involving his parents, medical professionals, and the local health authorities regarding appropriate living arrangements. The impact on his roommate (if one), other shelter tenants and chapter should be considered.

Before returning to the chapter house the tenant must be cleared by the relevant local health authority.

Personal Hygiene

All who enter the Shelter are expected to observe all CDC-recommended guidelines including but not limited to hand-washing (20+) seconds, social distancing, wearing of cloth masks, coughing/sneezing mitigation, and other pertinent personal hygiene practices.

Hand sanitizing stations are located in the 1st and 2nd floor bathrooms. A supply of hand sanitizer is available for chapter use. The chapter is responsible to make sure the stations are full of the available hand sanitizer.

Members moving into the shelter should monitor their daily symptoms 14 days prior to returning to school. If you exhibit symptoms, do not return to the shelter.

Laundry Room

The Chapter is tasked with keeping this room clean and trash-free. On a frequent basis, the Chapter shall wipe down the knobs, dials, and surfaces with an approved disinfectant.

Tenants are encouraged to use their own laundry supplies. Do not leave piles of dirty clothes in laundry room awaiting a free washer or dryer. Remove clothes immediately after drying.

Restrict the number of people to one at a time in laundry room given the lack of space.

The Chapter is tasked with posting guidelines for doing laundry such as washing instructions and handling of dirty laundry.

Social Distancing & Masking

We understand that social distancing and masking will be difficult, but it is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We recommend the following measures be put in place:

- For gatherings in the shelter, always follow CDC, local and University of Maine policies and guidelines. The chapter may want to consider moving meetings to an off-site or virtual environment. If virtual meetings to occur, it is suggested that the chapter make recordings available for non-attendees.
- Conduct recruitment activities in compliance with University of Maine and Delta Tau Delta policies and guidelines.
- Conduct sanctioned and non-sanctioned social events in full compliance with University of Maine, Delta Tau Delta, and IFC guidelines.
- Conduct rituals and ceremonies in full compliance with University of Maine and Delta Tau Delta guidelines.

- All who enter the shelter, including vendors associated with Maine Real Estate Management should wear a cloth face covering when in any/all common areas of the Shelter.
- Maintain CDC-recommended social distancing (6' and <15 minutes) to slow the spread of the virus.
- Small-group get-togethers should be limited in scope and the length of time minimized.
- The chapter is encouraged to find creative ways to social distance without giving up the benefit of group living. This may take time as we learn what is possible and guidance from others.

Questions about this Strategy should be referred to Andy L. Longo, Vice President of Education and Programming, Delta Tau Delta Fraternity. 317-284-0203 or andy.longo@delts.org

Some information used in this Strategy taken verbatim or modified from the Beta Gamma (University of Wisconsin) Delta Tau Delta COVID-19 Plan. John Teevan, House Corporation President.