



June 9, 2020

Dear Future Mountain Lion Resident,

The Coronavirus COVID19 has changed everything in our world, and higher education and residential life programs have not been immune to this. As you may have been aware, the University made the decision mid-March to go to remote education for the rest of spring term and we closed campus including our residence halls. Summer instruction (except for some lab courses and graduate research) will remain remote for our summer sessions, but the University has been working towards opening campus the safest way possible for Fall 2020.

The Residence Life and Housing Office has been planning and modeling several different ways we can safely house students during this historic event. We have consulted with the Colorado Department of Higher Education, El Paso County Public Health, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, as well as reviewing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to ensure we are prepared to reopen our residence halls and provide students with an on-campus housing experience. Following their guidance, we are modeling having one student per bedroom, but recently received guidance that allows for more than one person in our double and triple options. We plan to move forward with honoring roommate requests to the best of our ability and will confirm placement with those individuals in the near future. It is also important to note that only single private room requests will have a private bathroom. All other room options will require sharing a bathroom with other students.

Despite our reduced capacity to live on campus, our goal is to house all that wish to live on campus. All housing students will receive a new housing contract in the coming weeks that must be signed and returned by July 31<sup>st</sup> in order to maintain your space in housing. At the end of June, we will be reaching out to those students who have not yet completed their enrollment process to ensure there is still interest in living on campus. We have not suspended our residency requirement for first-year students, and are still accepting residency requirement petitions, which can be found at: <https://www.uccs.edu/residence/housing-application/housing-exemption>. We know the current situation has resulted in some students deciding not to live on campus this year. For those that wish to cancel your application, you must do so by July 31<sup>st</sup> via the cancellation form on the housing website: <https://www.uccs.edu/residence/housing-application/cancellations/housing-cancellation-form>. Our goal is to return all fees paid to the University within two weeks of your cancellation. Refunds will be processed once per week and should your payment have passed our ability to refund via a credit card, we will request a check be mailed to you. Please be patient as this refund option may take up to three weeks to process.

Because of our reduced occupancy and the need to move some residents to different rooms, we will not be able to offer any theme floor housing or learning living communities for the next academic year. We are in the midst of moving some students to maximize student safety so you may receive a new room assignment the week of June 15<sup>th</sup>. We make placements by application date and then by room type and roommate requests, which will not change unless we feel there is a safer option for those who were previously placed. This process allows us to assign each student's room fairly and in most instances with one of their top three room choices for those who applied prior to March 15<sup>th</sup>.

In conjunction with our campus partners, we are working on a move-in plan for August. As we finalize details, we will give you ample notice for that process. This will look very different than other fall move ins, as we will be extending our move in days as well as giving each student a designated day and time that

**Residence Life and Housing**



you can move in. We ask that you come with only **two** family members or friends to assist with your move in. We are encouraging you to bring only the essentials to campus. Students often come to campus with multiple cars and trucks filled with additional furniture and items to make this your home. Please be mindful of what you bring and select those items that are only essential to your on-campus living experience.

We will have guidelines for lines and elevator use and ask that all visitors on campus honor those guidelines. Unfortunately, we will not have our usual volunteers, carts or dollies available for move in so we encourage you to bring your own assistive devices as parking near the halls is limited and walks from the parking structures/lots can be a distance. Please watch your email in early August for additional instructions.

As a community of scholars, we want everyone to be successful and healthy. We are asking for each community member to do their part by following all guidelines being established regarding social distancing that will be outlined in the Student Code of Conduct and Housing Handbook addendums. By doing so, you are helping keep your community healthy. These guidelines are being developed using state and federal public health guidance, which continues to evolve. Due to trying to provide the most up-to-date guidance, the finalized addendums are not yet available, but will be posted on our website once completed.

We also want to highlight that campus is planning for a myriad of welcome week events to help welcome you to campus. We value the co-curricular experience and with social distance measures in place, we can still provide many traditions we have offered other years. Stay tuned for additional information on our official Clyde's Kick Off schedule.

We realize this has been a lot of information to take in, so please feel free to consult the University COVID19 website for additional information <https://covid19.uccs.edu/>. We understand you may have additional questions given we are still working on some of the logistics for the fall. As information becomes available, we will be reaching out to you via your @uccs.edu email so please check it frequently.

Please share this email with your parents/guardians and families and feel free to email us at [housing@uccs.edu](mailto:housing@uccs.edu) if you have any questions. Due to the high volume of inquiries we are receiving, we ask for your patience in responding. It is our goal to answer all emails within two to three working days.

We look forward to welcoming you on campus this fall. In the meantime, please take care of yourself and be well!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hanenberg  
Senior Executive Director  
Health and Wellness

Ralph Giese  
Director  
Housing Operations

Molly Kinne  
Director  
Residence Life

**Residence Life and Housing**