

COVID-19 GUIDELINES (for MYAHEC Housing Website)

7/18/20

Before you apply for AHEC housing you should understand that most AHEC housing has shared baths, kitchen and living areas, and often shared bedrooms. Whenever possible, AHEC will avoid housing more than one student in a room, however, this is not always possible. Students must take ultimate responsibility for their safety.

You will be sharing an apartment with other individuals who are also participating in patient care activities and, like you, may be exposed to infectious diseases in the course of that work. Regional AHECs are not liable for any potential exposure to infectious diseases between cohabitants participating in this housing program. Students are encouraged to always practice good hygiene and social distancing in order to reduce the likelihood of contracting or spreading infectious disease when living in close proximity to others.

Please know that you are not required to use AHEC housing. If at any time you feel your safety is in jeopardy please take responsibility to ensure your well-being, including seeking other lodging as needed (AHEC will not cover this expense).

We are asking all students applying/using AHEC housing to take the following coronavirus precautions:

A. If you have symptoms of the COVID-19 virus (fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) please be considerate of others and do not use AHEC housing.

- Notify your school's student health office immediately and follow their guidelines. We recommend that you review and understand the language of your health plan, since host institutions often do not provide coverage for the expenses students may incur during the evaluation or treatment of an acute illness.
- Notify the AHEC that you are cancelling your housing request (you/your school will not be charged for the cancellation)

B. Before returning to AHEC housing:

- Students that have previously tested positive for COVID and demonstrated symptoms, must not occupy AHEC Housing within 10 days of the onset of symptoms. Furthermore, these students must also be able to demonstrate that they have been afebrile for 72 hours with no use of fever-lowering medications and exhibit no other symptoms.
- Students that have tested positive for COVID and have remained asymptomatic must not occupy AHEC Housing within 14 days of the positive test result.

C. Students whose clinical experiences are cancelled are expected to cancel their housing application immediately. If the student is already on-site, we ask you to vacate as soon as feasibly possible.

D. Take responsibility for preventing the spread of COVID-19 in YOUR student housing. AHEC housing is cleaned monthly but this is insufficient to prevent the current virus. Students should:

- Bring Lysol, Clorox, disinfectant wipes, etc. with you.
- Wipe surface areas, tables, door handles, light switches, sinks, etc. on a daily basis.

E. If you test positive or have significant exposure to the coronavirus while staying in AHEC housing or contract the virus within two weeks after leaving AHEC housing, notify the local AHEC Housing coordinator immediately. They will collect more information and share with AHEC leadership to determine next steps. Local AHECs comply with the latest state reporting guidelines and current housemates may also be informed.

For the latest COVID-19 information, go to <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/covid19>