



U of SC Aiken

University Housing and Residence Life

8 July 2020

Greetings Fellow Pacer:

As you know, we are living in unique and unprecedented times. The health, safety, and welfare of our entire community is the UofSC Aiken's top priority. As such, we are preparing diligently for the 2020-2021 academic year. UofSC Aiken University Housing continues to work on finalizing plans for the fall semester, including measures designed to help mitigate the possible spread of the virus, and we will share more details over the course of the summer. This is the first in a series of communications providing you with updates on how University Housing is planning for your return to campus. We believe reducing the risk of COVID-19 is the shared responsibility of every member of our community, including our residential students. Please take some time to review all of the information in this letter, as it will help you prepare for your return to campus in August.

UofSC Aiken values the on-campus residential experience for student success and acknowledges the increased risk associated with community living. We are committed to supporting our students in their return to campus with the changes recommended by the CDC and SCDHEC for health and safety standards and guidance for community living due to COVID-19.

We are issuing an Addendum to the UofSC Aiken Housing Agreement to provide you with greater detail about how these changes may impact your residential experience in the coming year. You can find this document [linked here](#). **Please take the time to carefully review each item to make an informed decision about living in residential housing for the 2020-2021 school year.**

If you decline to accept the terms of the Addendum, you may opt out of living on-campus for the 2020-2021 academic year and will have until July 15, 2020 to submit a cancellation request on our website at: <https://www.usca.edu/housing/current-residents/housing-cancellation>, with no cancellation penalty.

If you understand and agree to comply with these expectations, no additional action is necessary. If no cancellation request is received by July 15, 2020, you agree to the terms of this Addendum in addition to the UofSC Aiken Housing Agreement.

There may be additional modifications needed as the year progresses and we track the impact of COVID-19 on our residential community and campus. As always, we will endeavor to update you with timely information about specific health and safety guidance important for our residential community.

Summer University Housing Communications

This is the first in a series of three communications that will be sent out to fall 2020 residents. You should expect the other two as follows:

- Mid-July: Email with additional information about fall 2020
- End of July: An Email as well as a packet of information mailed to your permanent address, including vital information that you will need to bring with you when you move into Housing

Move In Dates and Process

As part of the university's COVID-19 mitigation strategy, Housing Move In will be conducted over four days, Friday, 14 August through Monday, 17 August.

Each resident will be assigned a date and time for Move In. As part of the university's overall COVID-19 mitigation strategy limiting the number of residents in each building, as well as each apartment or suite, will help to ensure social distancing and minimize opportunities for community spread. University Housing will be providing the specific date and time to each resident in the mailing that will come out in late July. If there are conflicts about the assigned time, University Housing will attempt to accommodate a change, while ensuring that the COVID-19 mitigation strategies are maintained.

Housing Application and Room Selection

If you or a friend have not already complete a Housing Application or selected a room, there is still time to do so. A step-by-step guide for both processes may be found on the University Housing website at: <https://www.usca.edu/housing>

Single Room Requests

Any currently assigned resident who requires a single room due to health problems related to COVID-19 must contact Dr. Claudette Palmer at ClaudetteP@usca.edu in the Office of Disability Services and provide documentation by 6 July. Once approved, residents will be assigned to singles rooms. Please note that the cost of a Double-as-a-Single for is \$3,659.00. Once assigned to a single room, this rate will be applied to your university bill.

If you wish to make a single room request, you may do so by emailing Housing@usca.edu your first and last names, your USC ID, and your mobile phone number should we need to contact you.

Should you be assigned to a single room, you will be notified of your new assignment via email.

UofSC Aiken COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies

University Housing has been working diligently as part of the university community to implement COVID-19 mitigation strategies. These include:

- Providing Diagnostic Testing throughout the year
- Educating Students about the Virus
- Establishing an Isolation Plan for residents diagnosed with COVID-19
- Contract Tracing in Partnership with SCDHEC
- Encouraging Personal Responsibility, including Requiring Mask Usage in Common Areas
- Social Distancing in Common Spaces and Changes in Lounge and Study Room Usage
- Updated Cleaning Regimes

For more information on these mitigation strategies, please check out our Be Pacer Ready page at:

<https://www.usca.edu/pacer-ready>

COVID-19 Testing before Move In

- All residential students must obtain a COVID-19 test as close to return date to campus as possible, however, a test should not be taken more than 10 days prior to the return to campus. Medical documentation of negative test results should be brought with the student to housing move in.
- Students testing positive prior to returning to campus will not be allowed to move into housing until after the minimum 10 day isolation period off campus. Once the student shows no signs of COVID-19 symptoms, including no fever for at least 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, the student will be provided a new date and time to move into University Housing. Students who test positive must notify University Housing at Housing@usca.edu, that they will need to check in at a later date and time. University Housing will coordinate a new date and time to check in and will provide this information to the student via email. Any student who has tested positive should contact his or her advisor to make arrangements to learn remotely through their quarantine period.
- If a student does not undergo a test prior to move in, student will be required to go to the Convocation Center prior to moving into their dorm room and then maintain a self-quarantine until results are obtained.

Questions

We look forward to your return. If you have questions, please e-mail the University Housing and Residence Life office at housing@usca.edu.

I am confident that we will have a great fall semester. And although our day-to-day practices have changed some over the past several months, we know that we will all be working together to ensure that we have a fun and safe semester at UofSC Aiken.

Pacer Proud,



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Director