Dear New House residents,

Happy new year! Whether you are at home, in Cambridge, or somewhere else over the break, I hope you are relaxing and preparing for a return to campus later this month. I am happy to start 2017 by sharing some news that I think you will welcome, and is likely to have implications for the relocation planning currently underway.

Based on updates from MIT Campus Planning and Campus Construction, and barring unforeseen circumstances, renovations to New House are expected **to be complete in time for full occupancy for Fall 2018**. This shorter timeline assumes New House will be completely empty during Summer 2017 and Summer 2018 as was already planned, with "normal" construction activities in the empty and buffer houses during each construction phase.

The new timeline calls for potentially disruptive construction work during vacations and over IAP, which will help us meet the accelerated schedule. Housing will work with Prof. Harris, the house team, and residents to ensure that the construction work has minimal impact on anyone living in the complex during those times. An updated estimated timeline is at the bottom of this email.

Even with this great news, there's still work to be done to prepare for the fall 2017 temporary housing assignments. Here are the next steps:

* I will meet with room assignment chairs for the numbered houses this month to gather ideas for assigning small, medium, and large groups to other residence halls.
* Staff in DSL are looking into terms for leasing a house in Boston temporarily for members of House 3 and other New House residents.
* A special housing confirmation process for New House residents will be open from late January to mid-February, which will include questions about building and room assignment preferences. The resulting assignments are non-binding, and students may subsequently choose to cancel their assignment and enter the regular switch lottery process to move to another residence hall.

Given this exciting new information, I understand your temporary housing preferences for next year may change, and you may have some follow-up questions. Please email nh-transition@mit.edu with any questions, concerns, or feedback, and I will keep you posted on any further updates.

Warm regards, Jen

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