GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS LIVING IN A DOUBLE ROOM

Dear MIT Undergraduate Community,

With three classes of undergraduate students returning to campus housing for the Spring 2021 semester, and the need to maintain below-normal density in residences, Housing & Residential Services (HRS) has communicated to students throughout the housing assignments process that double-occupancy rooms will be necessary.

HRS has consulted with colleagues in the Division of Student Life, MIT Medical, Emergency Management, as well as with other colleges and universities regarding best practices for housing students in double-occupancy rooms for the Spring 2021 semester.

We know that some students may feel uneasy about having a roommate, but please know that MIT’s COVID-19 student policies—including robust testing protocols, face coverings, daily health attestation requirements and support resources—have all been developed to protect your health and safety.

On the next page, please find some helpful tips for students living in a double-occupancy room. We look forward to welcoming you to campus!

Sincerely,

Housing & Residential Services

Quick Tip from Tim

If you have concerns with your roommate, see if you can resolve the issue(s) among yourselves first. Try talking with your roommate directly. If you’re unsure how to approach this, or if speaking with your roommate directly does not solve the problem, consult with your Graduate Resident Advisor (GRA), Area Director (AD), or other member of your House Team to ask for advice. They are trained to help in situations such as this.

Learn more about Quarantine Week “Q-Week” at http://bit.ly/Q-Week
Limit your movements and interactions with other people for at least 10 days prior to departing for campus. Stay home as much as possible and limit your interactions with others for 10 days before you travel to campus.

Register for a pre-departure test kit, if eligible. These self-administered, no-cost Covid-19 test kits add to MIT’s existing on-arrival, surveillance, symptom-based and close contact testing protocols. While students living outside the United States are not able to receive MIT pre-departure test kits, they should abide by the recent CDC requirement for airline travelers to show negative pre-departure test results or documentation of recovery from Covid-19 when arriving in the United States from any foreign country.

Talk with your roommate regarding arrival plans. Both students who will be living in a double-occupancy room should coordinate their arrival. It is advisable that, whenever possible, roommates arrive on the same date; this will sync Quarantine Week for both roommates. If roommates are first-year students and a guest will be assisting with move-in, it is suggested that move-in happens at different times during the same day, so that guests from different households are not in the students’ room at the same time.

Undergo a brief health screening by MIT Medical upon arrival to campus. Staff from MIT Medical will be at Kresge (W16) to conduct a brief screening such as checking students’ temperatures when they arrive. Please follow the signs for where to enter for the health screening. If the health screening suggests additional follow-up at MIT Medical is necessary, the student will be directed to MIT Medical for further testing. If you have concerns about living in a double at any time, please contact doubleroom@mit.edu. There are lots of ways we can help!

Confirm Residential Pod plans. Roommates should expect to be in the same residential pod, and therefore should abide by the Spring 2021 Pod Agreement and associated practices of the residential pods program.

If you have concerns regarding your experience living in a double-occupancy room: Please know that your Room Assignment Chair (RAC), Undergraduate Residential Life, and Housing & Residential Services are all here to help. Due to the high number of students residing on campus for the Spring 2021 semester, and the need to keep to maintain below-normal density in the residences, we cannot guarantee adjustments to assignments within your current residence. Please email doubleroom@mit.edu with your questions or concerns.

If your housing plans have changed and you no longer require on-campus housing for the Spring 2021 semester, Housing & Residential Services will remain flexible in waiving the $250 housing cancellation fee if your cancellation form is submitted through MyHousing by 11:59 pm ET on Sunday, February 7.