Residence Hall Closures
Undergraduate Resident Guidance | March 14, 2020

1. Why is MIT requiring that undergraduate students move out of campus housing?

MIT is taking action out of an abundance of caution to help ensure the health and safety of the entire campus community by requiring undergraduate residents to move out of on-campus housing. As President Reif noted in an e-mail to the MIT community this week, the MIT community has a significant role to play in the concerted public health response to this regional, national and global threat.

2. When will I be required to move out?

Undergraduates who live on campus must begin packing and moving out of their residences. You will be required to leave by noon on Tuesday, March 17. See Question 6 on the process for requesting an exception. If you plan to depart prior to the end of classes this week, please contact your Student Support Services (S3) Dean for assistance with any academic support you may need.

3. Will I be allowed to move back into my room this semester?

MIT will continue to monitor COVID-19 conditions, but you should pack and leave campus as if you will not return this semester. After the move-out deadline, students who remain in the residence halls but do not have an official MIT-granted exception may be subject to disciplinary action.

4. What should I take with me when moving out?

Please remove all of your personal belongings. Take all items that are yours (especially valuables) and discard any unwanted items. Personal items left in rooms or common spaces may be discarded. A limited number of moving boxes will be available, and trash receptacles, dumpsters, and recycling bins will be supplied for each residence hall. Students living in suites should empty their refrigerator.

5. If I’m currently registered with the Student Disability Services Office and require additional assistance with moving, what should I do?

Please contact das-student@mit.edu and the staff in the Disability and Access Services Office will work with Housing and Residential Services to assist you with your needs.

6. Who should I contact with questions about my move-out?

Specific questions regarding move-out logistics within each residence hall may be directed to the House Operations Manager or Area Director. The entire HRS staff will be working collaboratively to share important details with residents, and to help guide the entire residential community through this challenging, but necessary situation. You may also e-mail questions to undergradcovidmoveout@mit.edu.

7. If I’m unable to move out by the required date, what do I do?
Limited exceptions will be considered to allow certain undergraduate students to remain on campus.

Exceptions may include:

- International students who have concerns that they would not be allowed to return to MIT due to visa issues.
- International students who will have difficulty returning to their home country if it has been hard-hit by COVID-19.
- Students who do not have a home to go to, or for whom going home would be unsafe given the circumstances of their home country or homelife.

To request an exception, you must complete this short form by noon on Friday, March 13. There is a large group of student support staff within the Division of Student Life and the Office of the Vice Chancellor who will be reviewing each submission and responding within 24 hours. They will either answer your questions, address your concerns, or get you to the right person who can help. As hard as it is, though, we do need all undergraduate students to make plans to pack their belongings and travel home, or to another location off-campus, by March 17, 2020.

8. Will the dining halls continue to serve meals?

Our five dining halls will remain open on their regular schedules until the end of dinner on Tuesday, March 17. The pick-lunch location in Walker Memorial will close at the end of service on Thursday, March 12.

MIT Dining will be assessing conditions for eateries across campus and may make schedule changes as needed. Please note that the Student Center will close at 9 pm on Tuesday, March 17 and be accessible only to community members with valid staff, faculty, student, or affiliate IDs from 7 am to 9 pm starting on Wednesday, March 18.

TechMart in Walker Memorial will close on Sunday, March 15 at 7 pm, and relocate to the Coffeehouse Lounge on the third floor of the Student Center. TechMart is anticipated to reopen on Thursday, March 19, and the new store hours will be Monday – Friday, 9 am to 3 pm. Purchases can be made by credit card, debit card, and TechCash only.

The Howard Dining Hall in Maseeh Hall will open for modified brunch and dinner service starting at 10 am on Wednesday, March 18. Brunch will be served from 10 am to 1 pm daily. Dinner will open at 5 pm and close at 8 pm daily.

We want to make sure that students remaining on campus will not experience food insecurity. If you want to request meal swipes, please visit this site for more information.

9. Will I have access to boxes and carts to assist with move-out?

Yes. Similar to the end-of-year move-out process, residence halls will have a limited number of moving boxes available to students as well as moving carts (available in the lobby) to help facilitate move-out. Boxes will be available in each residence hall starting on March 11. Specific questions regarding the move-out logistics from your residence hall may be directed to your House Operations Manager or Area Director.
Please see question 10 below for additional information about summer storage. **Students will be limited to one box and a mini-fridge or two boxes maximum for summer storage.**

10. **What is the room check-out process?**

Residents are required to complete the [MIT Housing Intention Form](#) that was e-mailed to residents, and will be provided with a check-out envelope for their keys. Identifying information must be written on the envelope including each resident’s name, MIT E-mail, room number, and home address. After your room has been emptied of all belongings, the envelope containing room keys must be dropped off and registered at the front desk prior to your departure from campus.

11. **Will I have access to summer storage for my belongings?**

Due to the exceptional nature of this move-out, HRS is working to identify summer storage space within each residence hall. This in-house summer storage will be extremely limited. **Residents will be able to store one box and a mini-fridge or two boxes maximum.** Undergraduate students are encouraged to ship belongings home where possible. Please note that students storing items during the summer do so at their own risk. Please visit the [Personal Property and Insurance Page](#) for more information.

12. **May I obtain a private storage pod?**

Please contact your House Operations Manager or Area Director for further details. Private storage pods cannot be obtained without permission from MIT Parking and Transportation. A Pod Pass must be placed on all pods and they must be placed in a specific parking space while on the MIT campus. Please view the [Pod/Temporary Storage Protocol document](#) and contact (617) 258-6510 or mitparking@mit.edu.

13. **How is MIT handling financial aid, housing, dining, and other student life fees?**

For students leaving on-campus or FSILG housing, we will refund the actual costs for housing and meal plan on a pro-rated basis. Additionally, we will refund half the spring semester student life fee. There will be no adjustments to financial aid associated with these changes.

Furthermore, we will reduce the amount we expect students to earn through a term-time job on a pro-rated basis and cover that amount with additional MIT Scholarship.

14. **Will summer 2020 housing be available?**

The proliferation of COVID-19 remains a fluid situation. Decisions regarding summer housing options have not been finalized. Once this information is available, updates will be shared with students interested in summer housing.

15. **If I’m graduating this spring, will I be allowed to move back to campus for graduation?**

Given how fluid the situation is, we have not made a determination about whether this year’s Commencement celebrations will proceed as planned. We will monitor Covid-
19 developments closely and let you know as soon as we have enough information to decide.

16. Does this impact the housing processes for the 2020-2021 academic year?

No, you still need to complete your housing intention form. The building switch lottery will still be run to allow moves for next academic year. The housing processes outlined within a recent e-mail will remain in effect until further notice.

17. Will MIT assist with any move-out costs that I may incur?

MIT is committed to supporting students navigating this difficult and unanticipated situation. Students who are facing significant financial hardship are encouraged to indicate this on the Undergraduate Form to Request Permission to Remain on Campus e-mailed to undergraduate students. Cases will be reviewed on an individual basis.

18. Will I be charged a fee for late move-out?

No. Students will not be assessed a late move-out fee. However, please note that students are expected to move-out by the deadline unless an exception has been granted through the Undergraduate Form to Request Permission to Remain on Campus. Violations may result in disciplinary action by the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

19. Where will my mail and packages be forwarded?

The express move-out envelope will provide a blank address field for residents to identify their preferred mailing address for the remainder of the semester (if different than their home address recorded within the ‘MyHousing’ portal).

20. What if I have a service or emotional support animal, or live with an approved pet?

Animals must accompany their owners. Any resident in need of additional assistance with coordinating their move-out with an animal are encouraged to contact their Area Director.

21. May I invite guests to stay over with me in the residence hall?

No. Overnight guests in the residence halls, including family and relatives, will not be permitted until further notice.

22. May I still use the laundry services within the residence halls?

Yes. Launder items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. To help keep clothes free of germs, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting and dry your clothes completely. For more information about environmental cleaning and disinfecting recommendations, please visit the CDC’s website by clicking here.

23. Will I be required to move to a new room if I receive an exception to the move-out?
Protecting the health and safety of our community is MIT’s top priority. Residents who have received an official MIT-approved exception to remain on campus should be packed and prepared to move to another residence hall on short notice. HRS will work with MIT Medical and other campus partners to determine what is in the best interest of community health.

24. Will there be any assistance with traveling to Logan Airport?

The Parking and Transportation Office will provide free shuttle service to Logan Airport on Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17. Shuttles will be available at scheduled times, and advance reservations are required. Visit the shuttles page to learn more and to reserve a seat.