RESIDENCE HALL DISTANCING PLAN

RESIDENTIAL LIFE

Our goal is to provide a safe and robust educational experience. There will be opportunities for students to connect with each other virtually and in small groups, and indoor and outdoor spaces will be identified for small group gatherings. As in the past, no students are permitted to live off campus. Any student who violates our on-campus residency requirement will be subject to the standards in our Student Code of Conduct, in addition to the new COVID-19 Community Standards.

To help us create opportunities for socializing safely within residence halls, while simultaneously complying with state guidelines for residential colleges, we will create “cohorts” and “families” as described below. The housing selection process has been set up so groups of friends can choose rooms near one another and Residential Life will adjust the remaining portions of housing selection to continue to make this possible. The new residential model incorporates the following elements:

**Family Unit:** roommates(s) or those sharing an apartment will be considered a family unit.

**Cohorts:** Residential Life will identify groups of approximately 10-12 students living adjacent to one another to serve as a cohort. Orientation groups for new students will also be their cohort. Members of the same cohort may enter each other’s rooms, but face coverings must be worn, physical distancing should be observed the occupancy may not exceed double the room occupancy.

**Extended Family Unit:** Extended Family Units will be identified within each residence hall so students can socialize safely. Extended Family Units will consist of two or more adjacent cohorts, and will most often be determined by residence hall floor, although small residence halls or portions of large floors may also comprise an Extended Family Unit. Members of the same Extended Family Unit may enter each other’s rooms in the residence hall. When hosting guest(s) from one’s Extended Family Unit, the number of students in any one room cannot exceed double the room occupancy. Extended Family Unit sizes are subject to change if required by new public health guidance.

Gatherings of no more than 10 people are permitted in shared indoor spaces such as common rooms as long as they don’t exceed the designated capacity. Face coverings must be worn in public settings when six feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained, or the risk of incidental contact is high.
**Building Access:** Students will be given card access only to their assigned residence hall and will not be permitted in any other residence hall on campus. Guests are not permitted in student rooms or hallways unless they are part of the student’s Cohort or Extended Family Unit. This restriction includes residents within a student’s residence hall who are outside their designated Cohort or Extended Family Unit and residents of other buildings. Guests from off campus, including family, alumni, and current students on leave or not studying on campus, are not permitted in any residence hall at any time. The only exception: one family member or friend is permitted inside the residence hall to assist a student during move-in and move-out.

**Residence Hall Traffic:** Students should always enter and exit the building using the exterior door nearest to their room. They should not travel through hallways that are not within their Extended Family Unit unless there is no other option for accessing the nearest bathroom, entrance, or exit. In the event of an emergency, exit the building using the most direct and safest route possible. Face coverings should be used in hallways.

**Bathrooms:** Face coverings should be worn in bathrooms except when using the sink or shower. Students should use the same bathroom fixtures (e.g., stall, sink, shower, etc.) as consistently as possible. Protective barriers will be installed between sinks, where feasible. The highest level of hygiene and cleaning practices should be maintained in order to protect all residents. Students will be unable to keep personal items such as shampoos and other toiletries in the bathroom.

**Lounges:** Each residence hall lounge will have a maximum occupancy in order to ensure physical distancing. Extended Family Units within the building must reserve lounge spaces prior to use.

**Kitchen and Laundry:** Building residents will need to reserve the kitchen or washers and dryers prior to use. Physical distancing must be observed and face coverings worn when six feet of separation cannot be maintained or the risk of incidental contact is high. Students will be required to use precautionary sanitizing practices such as wiping shared surfaces after each use.

**GATHERINGS**

Partnering with clubs and organizations, Hamilton will provide creative new formal and informal opportunities for safe social interaction that are both in person and virtual. Indoor and outdoor spaces will be provided for small groups to gather while still adhering to the regulations.

Limited gatherings will be permitted with restrictions based on space, location, and in accordance with New York State guidelines. Face coverings must be worn in public settings outside Cohorts or Extended
Family Units when six feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained, or the risk of incidental contact is high.

Gatherings of no more than 50 people are allowed in outdoor spaces. Gatherings in which participants are likely to come in close contact with other people outside their Extended Family Unit or that involve sharing items are to be avoided. Gatherings outside of the residence halls between 25 and 50 people will only be permitted if approved by the Student Activities Office. Student Events staff will be assigned to these events to ensure all guidelines are followed and will be included in the attendance count.

Gatherings of no more than 10 people are permitted in shared indoor spaces such as common rooms and kitchen areas when six feet of physical distancing is possible. All people in the gathering must observe physical distancing, wear face coverings, and be from the same designated Cohort or Extended Family Unit. Space must be reserved in advance through the online reservation system (building guidelines are to be determined with support from the Resident Advisor). At the conclusion of the gathering, all surfaces must be wiped down with provided disinfectant products.

Gatherings in bedrooms of up to double the currently established occupancy are allowed (e.g., singles can have two people and doubles can have four people, including the residents of the room). All people at the gathering must be from the same designated Cohort or Extended Family Unit and all room occupants must wear face coverings, and agree to the gathering; consent to having others in privately assigned spaces can be withdrawn at any time. Face coverings must be worn in public settings when six feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained, or the risk of incidental contact is high.