

## Closure of St. Mary's Residence Halls

Office of Residence Life <reslife@stmarytx.edu>

Wed 3/18/2020 7:27 AM

Dear St. Mary's Resident,

St. Mary's University has decided that it is prudent to close residence halls and, as a result, students are asked to check out of their residence hall no later than Monday, March 23. The Office of Residence Life is seeking your cooperation and support as we ask students to begin relocating to their permanent residence.

**Beginning at 5 p.m. on March 23, 2020, all St. Mary's University residence halls will be effectively closed and will not reopen for the Spring 2020 semester.**

All students are expected to move out of their residence hall and requests for permission to remain on campus will only be approved under extreme circumstances. **Prior requests made through the *Extended Spring Break and Spring Semester Housing form* are being re-evaluated in light of the decision to close the residence halls for the remainder of the semester.**

Please do not delay planning and conducting your exit from the halls. Be mindful that travel restrictions have been put in place suddenly over the past week and new ones may interfere with your departure without significant notice. Students leaving by car are urged to plan appropriately and then speedily pack belongings and depart. Students traveling by air should take immediate action to plan and schedule their flights. Carefully consider what may be packed and, if necessary, consult your air carrier for details. If departing places undue financial strain on you and your family, please complete the ***Student Emergency Fund form***. The University may be able to provide an appropriate extension or other assistance.

### **What should I do if I cannot get back to campus and remove my belongings by March 23?**

Please inform the Office of Residence Life that you cannot return to campus prior to the hall closure. Your belongings will be stored in your room until a time when the University is permitting students to return to campus and claim them.

Express check-out will be offered to all students checking out of the residence halls. Express Check-Out Envelopes will be available at front desks, lounges (for those halls without front desks), or will be slid under room doors. During the move-out process, please ensure that all personal belongings are removed from your room (check all drawers and cabinets).

- *Please note, to reduce the spreading of germs, we do not have bins, carts or dollies in the halls for move out. You are encouraged to bring boxes, bins, suitcases or your own carts to assist with transportation of your items.*
- All trash must also be removed from your room.
- Please ensure that all items are removed from your refrigerator and freezer.
- Complete your St. Mary's University Housing Express Check-Out Envelope. Completed envelopes should be: returned it to your hall's front desk, slide under your hall director's office door, or dropped off in the outgoing mailbox of your residence hall. If not returned, you will be charged a lost key fee.

At this time, the Office of Residence Life does not have details about credits or refunds for unused portions of meal plans or residence hall charges. St. Mary's is working diligently to resolve these questions and will communicate with students as quickly as possible.

As you develop your plans to exit the residence halls, please be vigilant about your health and safety. Continue to observe recommendations for social distancing, frequent hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and isolating yourself if you believe you may be ill.

### **Thank you!**

As this public health emergency is evolving, we will continue to share information as it becomes available. We do understand the serious nature of this pandemic and continue to take our guidance from public health officials. Please be sure to check the St. Mary's University [webpage](#) often, as it will be updated regularly.

The Office of Residence Life thanks you for the time you shared with us. We are saddened to see our residential students leave our residential community earlier than expected and under very different circumstances. We are looking forward to your return in the fall and we will make every effort to be ready to welcome you with hospitality and the Marianist spirit.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Residence Life at [reslife@stmarytx.edu](mailto:reslife@stmarytx.edu).

Sincerely,

James J. Villarreal

Director of Residence Life



### **Other Helpful Resources:**

#### ***Internet Access***

If you do not have access to internet in the United States, Spectrum and Comcast are offering students free internet.

- To take up Spectrum's offer, call 1-844-488-8398.
- To take up Comcast's offer, [InternetEssentials.com](http://InternetEssentials.com) or call 855-846-8376 for English or call 855-765-6995 for Spanish.

#### ***Transportation***

- With colleges and universities all over the United States announcing campus closures in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) concerns, many students may need last-minute transportation. Enterprise Rent-A-Car has reduced the age minimum and waived the young renter fee, so that we will be able to help more students access rental cars during this unprecedented event. Taking care of our communities is core to who we are, which we know is more important than ever.
- Assistance for students for Enterprise Rent-A-Car reservations and questions are available by visiting [enterprise.com/studenttravelassistance](http://enterprise.com/studenttravelassistance) or by calling (1-844-624-4412).

**Storage**

U-Haul is offering college students free storage for up to 30 days. For more information, [click here](#).