

MSU Issues Enhanced-Physical-Distance Directive

Talking Points

What is enhanced distancing?

During enhanced distancing, students must remain in their residence hall room except for:

- Picking up meals from a dining location
- Attending an in-person class
- Conducting research or employment that must be performed in person
- Participating in the COVID-19 Early Detection Program
- Receiving medical care
- Distanced outdoor physical exercise for two people or fewer
- To access secure internet

Additionally, students may not have any visitors in their residence hall rooms, gather in groups in lounges, hallways, community bathrooms or dine together. This includes with suitemates, “pod mates,” or “bubble mates.”

Why is this happening?

We have experienced a rapid increase in COVID-19 positivity rates on campus since move-in, in addition to a failure by some Spartans to adhere to previously established health and safety guidelines. To reduce transmission, and to be able to open campus up more, students are being asked to increase distancing across campus and limit unnecessary moving about the community.

Is this because a COVID variant has been detected on campus?

No. We’ve experienced a rapid increase in COVID-19 positivity rates since students returned to the East Lansing area for the spring semester. At this time, a COVID variant has not been identified within our community. However, as the president mentioned earlier this week, public health experts expect the B.1.1.7 variant will be detected across the state in the coming weeks, including in our area.

When does enhanced distancing start and end?

A 14-day period of enhanced distancing at midnight on January 31 until 11:59 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13. Should this period be extended we will inform students via email.

What will happen if I don’t follow the enhanced distancing guidelines?

Failure to comply may result in removal from on-campus housing without refund and/or suspension/expulsion from the university.

The Early Detection Program only shows a 1% positivity rate, which is far below the state and county positivity rate. Why are we restricting movements?

While the overall positivity rate is low, we are experiencing higher rates of positivity in the on-campus student population.

Residence Halls

- Residence hall service centers will have shortened hours of operation
 - North Case, Brody 104 and University Village Service Desk will be open 7 a.m.-10 p.m.
 - Owen Service Desk will be open 7 a.m-10:30 p.m.
- All public seating areas in the residence halls will be closed, including floor lounges
- Laundry rooms will remain open, with strict capacity limits
- Computer labs in halls will remain open
- Housekeeping in Owen has been paused for the duration of the 14-day enhanced distancing period.

Maintenance Requests

Maintenance requests will be limited to emergency services only. This includes pest management, plumbing repairs and heating issues.

Culinary

- Dining halls will be open for takeout and mobile order only
- Sparty's and Sparty's Market will remain open as well as the Union Food Court, with reduced hours

MSU Union

The MSU Union will be securing the 3rd and 4th floors.

Adjusted hours will be 8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat/Sun beginning Monday, Feb. 1.

Athletics

Intercollegiate student athletes may attend scheduled athletic activities (such as practices, competitions, and athletic training and tutorial sessions) and must follow all university mandated protocols.

What if I have a class in IM buildings, are those canceled?

Classes in the IM buildings will continue as normal.

Where can I access strong internet connection when public buildings are closed?

We suggest connecting your computer to the internet using an ethernet cord. Additionally, the MSU Union, the MSU Library and the Student Services Building are open for Wi-Fi.