

**RHODES COLLEGE  
COVID-19 ADDENDUM  
TO THE 2020-2021 HOUSING CONTRACT AND HOUSING POLICIES**

Rhodes College aspires to graduate students with a life-long passion for learning, a compassion for others, and the ability to translate academic study and personal concern into effective leadership and action in their communities and the world.

At Rhodes College, we pride ourselves on our commitment to our vision. We believe strongly in our students and their ability to make choices that support not only their own health and wellbeing, but the health and wellbeing of the entire community. Rhodes students are characterized by their commitment to honor, compassion, and effective leadership and action in our communities. At this time and amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, it is these characteristics that the world needs most.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Residence Life/Rhodes College is committed to providing an on-campus residential experience that supports the academic mission of the College, while following the health and safety recommendations and guidelines of healthcare and public health professionals to minimize the potential spread of the disease within the residential community.

Rhodes College has implemented preventative measures to decrease the spread of COVID-19 but cannot guarantee that you will not become exposed to or infected with COVID-19 or any other public health crisis, while living in on-campus housing.

By executing this Addendum, you agree to and accept all terms and conditions in the Addendum, as well as those included within the Housing Contract and Residence Life Housing Policies. This Addendum includes an acknowledgment and assumption of risk agreement. For more information concerning the housing contract and housing policies, please visit this link:

<https://handbook.rhodes.edu/student-handbook/residence-hall-policies>.

### **Residence Hall Living**

Students who live in the residence halls on campus are expected to adhere to all health and safety protocols. This includes living in the residence hall room that is assigned to each student and not moving without expressed permission from Residential Life. Additionally, the following areas will be included for **Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 Terms and Conditions of the Housing Agreement**.

- **Health and Safety.** We expect that all members of the Rhodes College Housing community—residents and staff—act in a manner that demonstrates respect and consideration for those around them, including respect and consideration for the health and safety of all community members. All residential students are prohibited from creating a health or safety hazard within Rhodes College Housing. Rhodes College may request or require a resident to leave Rhodes College Housing if their continued presence in the housing community poses a health or safety risk for community members. Residential students are required to comply with health and safety laws, orders, ordinances, regulations and health and safety guidance adopted by Rhodes College as it relates to public health crises, including COVID-19. Specific details will be provided as circumstances dictate, but this may include, and is not limited to, social distancing, limitations on gatherings, wearing a face covering, COVID-19 diagnostic and surveillance testing (including

before or upon arrival to campus) and regular intervals thereafter), contact tracing, disinfection protocols, limitations on guests into residential halls, and quarantine / isolation requirements (including before or upon arrival to campus). Adherence to health and safety requirements applies to all residents, staff and visitors and extends to all aspects of housing, including bedrooms, bathrooms, community kitchens, lounges, fitness centers, courtyards and other common spaces. The resident agrees to do all of this not just for themselves, but for the safety of others, and because this is consistent with the spirit of Rhodes College.

- **Quarantine / Isolation / Separation.** At any time, Rhodes College may request or require a resident to leave Rhodes College Housing when that resident's continued presence in the housing community poses a health or safety risk for community members. Residential students are required to comply with requests from Residence Life staff to leave their assigned space due to COVID-19 or other public health emergency and failure to do so is a violation of the Housing Agreement and may subject a student to emergency removal from their assigned space. Not all Rhodes College Housing residential rooms or halls are appropriate for self-quarantine or self-isolation. In those situations where a student is recommended to self-quarantine or self-isolate, students will not be permitted to continue residing in their residential space and may be provided alternative housing arrangements as needed while in quarantine or isolation. Removal from Rhodes College Housing to isolate or quarantine does not constitute a termination of a residential student's housing contract. Upon completion of the quarantine or isolation period, the student will be permitted to return to their assigned residential space.
- **Room Changes.** Room changes must be approved by a Residence Life Staff member prior to the relocation.
- **De-Densifying Efforts.** Residential students are required to comply with any de-densifying efforts needed on campus due to COVID-19 or other public health emergency, including, but not limited to, the relocation of all or some residential students to alternative housing. Relocation does not constitute a termination of a residential student's housing contract.
- **Dining Services.** Dining services, including where and how it will be offered to residential students, is subject to the discretion of Rhodes College and Rhodes Dining Services and is subject to modification to address public health concerns. Due to health and safety guidance adopted or that may be adopted by Rhodes College, or Rhodes Dining Services, Rhodes Dining Services may limit the occupancy of dining facilities, limit the amount of time students may reside within dining facilities, or make other operational adjustments needed to address health and safety concerns.
- **Cleaning.** Rhodes College Facilities Services will continue to implement and modify its cleaning protocols to address COVID-19 or other public health emergency in the interest of attempting to minimize the spread of disease. Rhodes College Physical Plant staff and Residence Life will educate and inform residential students on appropriate cleaning protocols within their assigned spaces to attempt to reduce the spread of COVID-19 within residential halls. Residents will be responsible for obtaining cleaning supplies to maintain a clean-living environment within their assigned space.

- **Amenities and Common Areas.** Residence Life may limit access to some amenities and common areas for the health and safety of the community. This will be based on the guidance from health professionals or in accordance with any laws or emergency orders in response to COVID-19.
- **Guest and Visitors.** Guests and visitors will not be allowed inside Rhodes College residential halls or on campus until such time as Rhodes College deems it safe to lift this restriction. Residents will have access only to the residence hall that they are assigned to. An exception will be made during the move-in process. During move in, students will be limited to two helpers. All helpers assisting students will be required to wear masks while inside the buildings.
- **Termination.** Upon reasonable notice, Residence Life reserves the right to terminate housing contracts due to public health emergency needs, including COVID-19.

Rhodes College is committed to supporting its students during this unprecedented time and recognizes the value of the on-campus residential experience. There may be additional modifications needed as the year progresses and as Rhodes College tracks the impact of COVID-19 on its residential communities and campus and as it prepares for a return to campus this spring.

### **Personal Protective Measures and Cleanliness**

The College has established a number of protective measures on campus that are designed to keep our entire community safe.

First and foremost, all members of the campus community – faculty, staff, and students – are required to wear masks on campus. The use of masks applies to both indoor and outdoor environments. This includes, but is not limited to, buildings, indoor and outdoor classrooms, hallways, stairwells, elevators, lounges, meeting spaces, the library, all campus offices, and restrooms. Students are not required to wear a mask when working in a private office or when they are in their individual residence hall room.

Masks are expected to be worn properly, which means fully covering your mouth and nose with the mask/face covering. Wearing face masks or coverings is one of the most important actions we can all take to suppress the spread of the virus. Face masks are useful in both preventing illness in healthy individuals and in preventing asymptomatic transmission. Wearing a face mask is not only about self-protection; it is also about protecting others from infections. When a community wears face masks consistently, the number of COVID-19 cases is reduced. Each member of our campus community has a part to play in reducing the spread of COVID-19, and we ask that everyone comply with the College's mask policy in their everyday interactions with others. Students who are not in compliance with the College's mask policy may be charged with a violation of the Failure to Comply disciplinary policy.

The College does not recommend the use of medical-grade N95 masks. Masks with relief valves may not be worn on campus as they do not protect others. Face shields may also be requested by students unable to wear a mask for documented health reasons. To request a mask accommodation, students must contact the Director of Student Accessibility Services, Melissa Butler at [butlerm@rhodes.edu](mailto:butlerm@rhodes.edu). Requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

While the College has a dedicated Physical Plant team that is working hard to enact enhanced cleaning and sanitation procedures throughout campus, especially as it relates to deep cleaning of commonly used spaces, we must all do our part to help keep campus safe. Students will be expected to regularly disinfect their own living spaces.

### **Campus Visitors**

While our campus will be open to Rhodes faculty, staff, students, and prospective students, the College will be closed to the broader community. In the interest of health and safety, students are not permitted to bring guests with them to campus.

### **Smoking and Vaping**

Smoking and vaping are prohibited on campus and College properties for the duration of the pandemic in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

**Assumption of Risk: I understand that Rhodes has undertaken reasonable steps to lessen the risk of transmission of COVID-19 that may exist on account of my living in Rhodes Housing, and that Rhodes is not responsible in any manner for any risks related to COVID-19 due to my living in Rhodes Housing. I understand that the World Health Organization has classified the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic. I further understand that COVID-19 is a highly contagious and dangerous disease, and that contact with the virus that causes COVID-19 may result in the risk of loss, personal injury, sickness, death, damage and expense, the exact nature of which are not currently ascertainable. I am fully aware that living in Rhodes Housing carries with it certain inherent risks related to COVID that cannot be eliminated regardless of the care taken to avoid such risks. By signing below, I hereby voluntarily accept and assume all risks related to COVID-19 related to living in Rhodes Housing. I further understand and agree that Rhodes is not responsible for any medical or other expenses associated with any illness I may sustain as a result of living in Rhodes Housing.**

I acknowledge having reviewed and understand the information as presented and indicate my willingness to abide by the requirements, guidelines and responsibilities as outlined in the Housing agreement, the Residence hall policies and this Addendum.

If you believe you cannot meet or comply with these requirements and responsibilities, do not sign this Addendum. Contact our office at 901-843-3241 or [reslifestaff@rhodes.edu](mailto:reslifestaff@rhodes.edu) to discuss your withdrawal from on-campus housing.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_