

Good afternoon Highlanders!

We're excited to welcome you back to campus during the weekend of January 22-24! As you prepare to return, I wanted to let you know of a few key pieces of information to help you in your planning. Please read this email in its entirety, as the information provided is important for all students to be aware of as you return.

1. While we are not asking returning students to sign-up for a specific check-in time, we are requiring that you notify us with the specific day and time of day you will be arriving to campus by completing our pre-arrival questionnaire (below).
  - a. Unlike the fall, no visitors for returning students will be allowed in the residence halls. Only new students or students who are coming to campus from having learned remotely for the fall may bring up to two guests with them. These guests will leave once their move-in time is done and they should not interact with anyone else while they are in the residence hall or townhouse.
  - b. It is essential that we know which day you'll be arriving so that we can prepare for COVID testing occurring the week of the 25<sup>th</sup>, as this will need to happen at least three full days after your arrival.
2. All students taking classes on campus this fall **need to complete the Pre-Arrival Questionnaire**. If this is not completed prior to arriving to campus, you will not be able to move in. You can find the questionnaire [here](#).

**REMINDER: All students must also complete the financial validation process prior to moving in to their residence hall. Find out about these steps [here](#) and [contact the Student Financial Services Office](#) if you have any questions.**

3. When you arrive, proceed directly to your residence hall to get your room key (townhouse residents will report to the Hazlett Laundry Room to get their key). There are two important steps you'll need to complete in order to be able to proceed to your residence hall room:
  - a. You will go through a health screening, including having your temperature taken, to make sure it's safe for you to proceed to your room. **Don't come to campus if you or any person accompanying you feels symptomatic.** Email [housing@houghton.edu](mailto:housing@houghton.edu) if you need to change your arrival time due to illness.
  - b. You will need to produce **one** of the following:
    - i. Proof (email, text, or other documentation) of a negative COVID-19 test taken within the three days prior to your arrival to campus. *If you don't yet have the results from that test, you will need to present these results to the test administrators during the mass testing occurring the week of the 25<sup>th</sup>. At check-in you will need to provide proof of having taken a test within the previous three days.*
    - ii. Proof (email or other documentation) of having been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 90-days as well as documentation indicating that you have been released from isolation by the Department of Health.

- iii. *If neither of these criteria are met, the student will enter into precautionary quarantine for a period of 10 days with no opportunity to test out of this requirement.*
4. Once you've been cleared to proceed to your residence hall room, make your way there, limiting your interactions with others on the way. *During the move-in process, remember that students will need to be masked and are expected to limit their contact with others as much as possible.*
5. After you've moved into your room, if you need to quarantine because you are coming from an international location or a state that does not border New York (students from New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania are exempted from travel quarantine), you then need to proceed directly to that space. Your quarantine room key, if different from your spring housing assignment, will be provided to you at the check-in table.
6. The following student expectations are in place prior to in-person classes resuming on February 1<sup>st</sup>:
  - a. Students not under formal quarantine orders (from NY, PA, NJ, VT, CT, or MA):
    - i. Must have no in-person contact, including eating meals, with other individuals (except their roommate/housemates) until at least February 1<sup>st</sup>.
    - ii. Can be outside and around campus, though please be sure to not interact with others during this time so that we minimize any possibility of virus transmission during this time.
  - b. Students under formal quarantine orders (from all other locales):
    - i. Must first complete the NYS Travel Health Form upon check-in to campus: (<https://forms.ny.gov/s3/Welcome-to-New-York-State-Traveler-Health-Form>)
    - ii. Must not come into contact with other individuals until their quarantine is complete (all students will be tested after completing at least three full days of quarantine and may be released from quarantine if they produce a negative test result at that point).
    - iii. If you're sharing a bathroom with other individuals in your quarantine space, be sure to practice strict hygiene protocols and limit your time in this public space as you're able.
    - iv. Meals will be delivered to you each day and, if you have any trash to dispose of, please give this to your delivery person. *We have no plans to deliver mail or do laundry for students under travel quarantine provided that they test out of these requirements after four days. Please bring enough clothing to your quarantine location for that period of time.*
    - v. If you need anything, there will be a list of numbers and reminders of these instructions in your room.
    - vi. Each student in quarantine will have time to go outside but these times will need to be structured so that the likelihood of coming into contact with another person is diminished. These instructions will be communicated to you prior to arrival.
    - vii. If you have any dietary needs we need to be aware of when packing your meals, please let us know by filling out this form (<https://tinyurl.com/y4vjddxx>).

- viii. Make sure you pack a "go-bag" for you to take to your quarantine room that has sheets and a blanket, your computer, any medicine you might need, some snacks, a thermometer, a water bottle, and any other things you think you might need during this time.

All academic buildings will be locked during this time and the dining hall and Java 101 will be take-out only.

Meals will be served in the dining hall. Breakfast will be from 7:00-9:30am. Lunch will be from 11:45-2:00pm. Dinner will be from 4:45-7:30pm. (The Dining Hall will be closed from 1pm to 1:15pm and from 6pm to 6:15pm for sanitizing). Java 101 will be open from 8:00-4:00pm.

If you have any questions about the move-in process, please contact [housing@houghton.edu](mailto:housing@houghton.edu).

It is not a guarantee that we will be able to resume in-person instruction on February 1<sup>st</sup>—it is highly dependent on a successful move-in process and a one-week period of no in-person interactions that students, staff, and faculty agree to uphold. It will take a coordinated effort and strict adherence to these guidelines if we are to successfully welcome students back to our campus this spring. Thank you for your continued support and engagement in this process and I'm excited to be able to welcome you to Houghton's campus in just a few weeks!

Regards,

Marc Smithers  
Dean of Students

Katie Breitigan  
Director of Residence Life and Housing