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COVID-19 Housing reflection points

Compiled by: APUAF Housing Committee

Last Updated: October 28, 2020

Potential reflection points regarding Apartments and Residence halls

In the COVID-19 pandemic context, we must be mindful of our impact on our local communities. As we consider resuming study abroad, [we offer this list of inquires to complement the APUAF's COVID-19 Protocols for Students and APUAF's COVID-19 Protocols for Apartments and Residence Halls](#). The list is intended as a potential roadmap for discussion between in-country and US-based decision-makers. Different priorities, institutional considerations and budgets mean that appropriate answers may vary greatly.

Decision to resume Apartments and Residence Halls:

- Single or double occupancy rooms?
- Sharing living space presents risk. What is your institution's risk tolerance regarding sharing living spaces (ex. social distancing during meals)?

Protocol development and "buy-in":

- How will you include different actors in developing your program's protocols (ex. US-based administration, in-country team, third party providers)?
- How will you communicate both national and institutional protocols to providers? To students? How will you ensure that all parties understand and consent to protocol? What are potential actions in case of non-compliance and how do you communicate them?
- Will you have a policy relative to third party providers allowing guests, etc.?
- Does your protocol impose any restrictions/protocol on one party but not the other (ex. testing before arrival, limiting international travel)? If so, how do you justify that?
- How will you manage cases where the student or the provider complains that the other is not taking sufficient action to prevent infection?
- Are your general terms for cancelling the housing agreement clear and accessible to all? Will you make any adjustments to those terms in the context of COVID-19?
- Will you allow students to change housing once on site for non-COVID related reasons? Will students have to be tested before changing housing?

Daily life

- Who will pay for cleaning supplies for use in the apartment/student room? Will stipends be adjusted while COVID protocols (see *APUAF Protocols for Students/Hosts*) are in place? Who determines when COVID protocols are lifted?
- In case of a move to work/school/university from home, does the apartment or residence hall have adequate internet? If not, how could access be managed?

Suspected/confirmed COVID cases

- What are your plans for managing suspected and/or confirmed COVID cases in the apartment/facility (student or housemate)?
 - Consider the case where a party tests positive in days/hours before start of program.
 - Who determines if a party/household gets tested?
 - Will you have a blanket policy to remove student from his housing, or will you evaluate case by case? What triggers removal?
- If you remove the student, what is your contingency housing (plan A, B, etc.), and who will pay for it?
- What are your expectations for provider and/or staff in supporting a student with suspected/confirmed COVID? What is your program's risk tolerance re: third party provider/staff giving student over-the-counter medication? Third-party provider/staff advising student to specific medical services?

Isolation and/or quarantine conditions in temporary/contingency housing:

- Who will pay for temporary housing?
- How will the student move to/from temporary housing?
- How will the student get meals and personal protective equipment (PPE) while in isolation/quarantine and who will pay for them? How will laundry be managed and paid for?
- Will the program staff or RA be responsible for these aspects?
- Will all/some of the rent be paid to the third-party provider in the student's absence?
- How will it be determined that the student may return to the initial housing or integrate a new housing?

Isolation and/or quarantine conditions in housing (if applicable):

- Who decides if the student stays in their housing and how?
- Will adjustments be made to housing contract (ex. shared meals, cleaning schedule, etc.)? If so, how will they impact the third-party remuneration?
- Would you have different policies depending on the role of the sick person/carrier in the housing (ex. If commons spaces -restrooms, bathroom- are shared with other housemates)?
- Will any/all common spaces still be available to the student? If not, what alternative can be set up (laundry room, kitchen access)
- How will laundry and cleaning be handled? And by whom?
- How will meal orders and deliveries be managed? Who will take care of the logistics once delivery is made at the front desk of the housing? the school or the student?

Other

- Are there considerations to be made for high-financial need students? For students with disclosed co-morbidity or health conditions?
- What are contingency plans if staff/program administrators are immobilized? How can continuity of care and confidentiality be managed?
- Have you considered that compliance with regular confidentiality practices may be different than usual (ex. program informing a third-party provider or housemates if student presents symptoms, sharing contact information with medical authorities, etc.)?
- If a residence hall requires a negative Covid test, can the program or student provide it? Can a program or school force students to be tested onsite?
- How can program with limited staff handle multiple crisis at multiple locations (apartments/residence halls)?
- In case of sudden departure, who handles packing belongings/storage/shipping if the student cannot travel with all belongings?