

DRAFT Process for Returns to Graduate Housing

April 29, 2020

Process for gradual returns.

Residents who left graduate housing in March to de-densify the campus have been informed that they should not return before May 18 given Governor Baker's most recent extension of the current emergency order. The date tied to lifting the state-wide emergency order is a baseline, which, when coupled with the latest public data regarding the spread of COVID-19 in Massachusetts, will inform MIT's plans for safely resuming graduate student housing returns. MIT is closely monitoring this fluid situation and establishing a process to ensure a safe, controlled, and gradual return to graduate housing. With guidance from MIT Medical, MIT Emergency Management and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, we will stagger returns to campus and confirm new housing assignments that will align with proposed density restrictions.

The plan below will guide approvals for general returns to MIT housing unless a resident's extenuating circumstances meet certain criteria.

Capacity

MIT leadership continues to consider the optimal approach to density across the housing system at MIT. As we learn more about the virus, and remain concerned about community spread of the virus, we need to be able to keep our residential communities as safe as possible even as we begin to increase the density of the residences. Factors that are being considered include the various living environments with the goal of maintaining low student to bathroom and kitchen ratios.

Based on this guidance, the current maximum capacity planned for graduate housing is 70% of the typical capacity (1700 beds out of 2400 beds). However, this capacity will continue to be evaluated with the goal of increasing it in combination with appropriate policies and procedures.

If returning students have received exemptions and live in the following residential settings, temporary alternative housing arrangements may be required.

1. On-campus graduate housing settings where residents are sharing certain common spaces, as well as locations where overall density remains elevated, present certain challenges to practicing social distancing.
2. Residents returning to 70 Amherst, because of shared floor kitchens and bathrooms, or to Ashdown 3 bedroom suites, because of shared floor kitchens.
3. Residents returning to buildings that have already reached the established capacity (see Capacity information above)

Minimum Requirements to Return & Live in Graduate Housing (May-July 31)

MIT graduate students must meet the following minimum requirements to be considered for approval to return to campus to live in their 2020-2021 graduate housing assignment between May and July 31, 2020 when standard housing license expire. They must be...

1. eligible to register for the summer or fall 2020
2. eligible to remain in housing beyond July 31, 2020 and renew housing license for the 2020-2021 academic year
3. in good standing with the Institute

Phases of a Gradual Return

1. **Current State: Today to May 18**

- a. Exemptions permitting returns to live in graduate housing will be granted for graduate students who meet the minimum criteria above and have extenuating circumstances (i.e. no other alternative). Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis according to the Criteria for Exemptions listed below. Expectations for Students Returning to Live on Campus outlined below must be followed.
- b. Exemptions permitting returns to move belongings out of graduate housing will be granted for graduate students who have extenuating circumstances. Permission through this process will allow residents to return only to immediately move out all belongings from private apartments (e.g. family housing, 1 bedrooms and efficiencies) or with explicit permission from roommates. Expectations for Residents Returning Only to Move All Belongings Out (or in some cases to retrieve a few personal belongings) outlined below must be followed.
- c. Graduate Resident Advisors (GRAs) may return at any time.

2. **Phase 1: May 18 - initiate scheduled returns**

- a. In addition to the permissions for approved returns described in the *Current State* period above, permissions will also be extended to **MIT graduate students who live in their own private apartments (e.g. family housing, 1 bedrooms, efficiencies)**.
- b. All returns or moves will be governed by expectations outlined below.

3. **Phase 2: June 15 - initiate scheduled returns if cases not increasing on campus**

- a. In addition to the permissions for approved returns described in the *Current State* and *Phase 1* periods above, permissions will also be extended to **MIT graduate students who live in shared apartments (2, 3, 4 bedrooms)**.
- b. All returns or moves will be governed by expectations outlined below.

4. Phase 3: Timing TBD and aligned with undergraduate housing strategy

- a. In addition to the permissions for approved returns described in the *Current State* and *Phase 1 and 2* periods above, permissions will also be extended to **MIT graduate students who share hall kitchens in Ashdown 3 bedroom suite or share hall kitchens and bathrooms 70 Amherst**
- b. All returns or moves will be governed by expectations outlined below.

NOTE: All timing remains subject to change based on executive orders of the Governor of Massachusetts or guidance from MIT Medical and MIT Emergency Management.

Criteria for exemptions may include:

- Students who do not have reasonable alternative housing options, including those who do not have a home to go to, or for whom going home would be unsafe given the circumstances of their home life.
- International students who cannot travel to their home country, or who have visa issues that would impact their return to campus. We are, however, strongly encouraging any international student who can stay with family or friends in the United States to consider pursuing this alternative housing option during the crisis.
- Students who are “designated personnel,” who have been given a specific exemption by the dean of their school to work on critical research.
- Graduate Resident Advisors and graduate students who are living in FSILGs or undergraduate housing.

NOTE: This list of exemptions is not exhaustive nor a guarantee of permission to return.

Expectations for Students Returning to Live on Campus

1. Two options:
 - a. Test and self-quarantine for 14 days in assigned apartment OR
 - b. No test and self-quarantine for 14 days in designated location (e.g. Burton Conner?)
2. Sign new short-term license agreement through July 31, 2020
3. Agree to follow all current COVID-19 housing policies in place in graduate housing

Residents Returning Only to Move All Belongings Out

(Ordinarily Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm. Weekends and nights if needed)

1. May return only to enter the building and remove belongings immediately.
2. Must coordinate with the House Operations Manager or Unit-12 manager/supervisor on duty and check-in all people(s) assisting with the move.
3. Must coordinate move logistics with any roommates remaining in the apartment and provide ample notification.

4. Desk will issue a lockout key to be used only for the time needed to remove all belongings.
5. Must wear a face covering as well as practice social distancing and hand hygiene at all times while in the building.
6. May not stay in the room or building overnight.
7. Students will be allowed to have assistance with moving, including professional movers. The number of people assisting should be reasonable and all parties must follow the rules outlined above.