COVID-19 Addendum
CODE OF CONDUCT ADDENDUM:
EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR

The following COVID-19 expectations for student behavior have been established with guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and applies to all Messiah University students. These statutes are also closely aligned with, and serve as an important addendum to, the expectations for community life as expressed in the Messiah University Community Covenant and Code of Conduct. All students voluntarily agree to uphold these expectations by virtue of attendance. The following COVID-19 Life Together expectations have been established to ensure the health and welfare of the entire community and are subject to change. Any changes will be communicated via mass email and reflected in the online Student Handbook, which can be found here: https://www.messiah.edu/info/20852/student_handbook. Students are expected to abide by the most up-to-date expectations as published on the web.

OUR COVID-19 LIFE TOGETHER

As a community of Christian scholars, we continue to embrace the life and teachings of Jesus as exemplary and instructive for how we are to live in relationship with God, His creation, and our neighbors, especially in this season of COVID-19. His call to love others further motivates us to live out best medical recommendations designed to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus, such as social distancing and mask-wearing. Although limiting ourselves from others for this season may seem contrary to His relational design, these practices actually fulfill His high calling to “do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” In our context, we must broaden this golden rule to do unto others as you would have them to unto you or your high-risk grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, friends, professors, supervisors, and others.

AN ESSENTIAL COMMITMENT

For the health and wellbeing of our entire community—including students, employees and all of our families and friends—it is vital that we faithfully abide by the COVID-19 Life Together expectations as a common steadfast commitment. We must do this together—as a community—toward
protecting one another, particularly the vulnerable in our community. We must all commit to this to keep our campus COVID-19 free and remain open to provide residential education. If we don’t work together in this common commitment, it’s not going to work, lives may be lost, and the college will be forced to return to the online learning environment that was created to finish out the Spring 2020 semester. If you feel that you cannot put these expectations into practice, you should consider the Fully Remote Learning option available or defer your enrollment at Messiah University until the pandemic is over and these expectations are lifted. It is that important.

**EXPECTATIONS**

1. **Symptom Monitoring/Self Screening**
   It is expected that all community members will consistently practice symptom monitoring. All students are required to take their body temperature daily before leaving their close-contact unit* (see below) at the start of each day. A record of this temperature is to be registered via the Falcon Health COVID-19 Check In application in FalconLink no later than noon each day of the week, including Saturdays and Sundays.

2. **Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette**
   It is required that all community members will consistently practice physical distancing, protective mask wearing, frequent handwashing and hand sanitizer usage, and shielding others when needing to cough or sneeze. This means specifically that students will maintain a “Falcon Wingspan,” equivalent to approximately one to two arm’s length when around other people, including traversing campus, visiting buildings, and attending class. Classrooms and campus eating establishments have been designed to promote this necessary distancing. Residential students have been assigned to residences with specific floor/apartment assignments limiting the number of people on a floor or section. *These are considered close-contact units or an “extended family.” Residence hall students are expected to abide by bathroom assignments and visitation parameters established for close-contact units.

   It is required that students wear masks when outside of their living spaces. Exceptions include when eating or exercising outdoors with adequate physical distancing.
3. **COVID-19 Testing**
   It is expected that community members will agree to regular COVID-19 testing as instructed by the Engle Center.

4. **Quarantining/Isolation Practice**
   As a result of COVID-19 testing, and/or becoming symptomatic, some community members may be required to enter quarantine or isolation as directed by the Engle Center medical personnel. Being quarantined will mean completing coursework remotely during the time you are quarantined/isolated. The University has reserved residential spaces on campus for quarantine purposes.

5. **Contact Tracing**
   Community members who test positive for COVID-19 are expected to participate in contact tracing interviews to mitigate the spread of the virus within our community.

6. **Guests**
   Students will not be permitted to host guests from off campus, including family members, during the season of these COVID-19 expectations.

7. **Leaving Campus**
   Residential students are required to follow guidelines established for leaving campus including, but not limited to, using discernment about whether or not leaving campus is necessary, whether or not to visit certain locales, practicing physical distancing and mask wearing, and not being tourists to COVID-19 “hotspots.”

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**ENCOURAGEMENT**

To encourage our compliance and communal health, students who consistently follow through on these expectations will be entered into random drawings for incentive prizes.

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

Students are encouraged to hold one another accountable to these COVID-19 Life Together expectations. As stated above, they are in place to promote the health and wellbeing of the Messiah University community, and beyond. All community members are encouraged to follow the redemptive, relational model found in Matthew 18:12-17 which promotes one-on-one accountability within the balance of individual and community care. Students should encourage one another to follow these expectations, set
Aside defensiveness, and consider these effective interventions as a high regard for their wellbeing and that of others in the community. Students who consistently fail to adhere to these expectations will be referred to the Student Conduct process and will face sanctions ranging from reprimand to suspension of enrollment.

QUESTIONS

Questions regarding these expectations should be directed to Doug Wood, Associate Dean of Students, at dwood@messiah.edu or the Engle Center for Counseling and Health Services.

COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR RESIDENTIAL LIVING

In compliance with Messiah University initiatives to maintain the health and well-being of our campus community and to comply with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Pennsylvania Department of Health COVID-19 parameters for institutions of higher education, the following parameters have been established for all residential students.

COMMUNAL LIVING: DEFINING “FAMILY”

**Residence Hall Floors: Extended Family**

For traditional residence halls, Messiah University needed to reduce the number of students living on the same floor. Each traditional residence hall floor is now considered an “extended family” of sorts with whom residents will share much of their out-of-class campus time in proximity with one another. The ideal is that this “extended family” will be an insulated unit with reduced risk for exposure to the COVID-19 virus. For the first two weeks of the fall semester, protective cloth masks must be worn while in the common areas of a floor (e.g., hallways, lounges, bathrooms as appropriate) or in the building (e.g., hallways, stairwells, laundry rooms). If the campus remains COVID-19 free after this two-week period, masks do not have to be worn by “extended family” residents while on their respective floor. Except for when in their own room with roommates, students must continue to practice social distancing on their floor communities and wear a protective cloth mask if this distancing cannot be maintained.
Apartments/Houses/Bathroom Groups: Nuclear Family
Students living on a traditional residence hall floor will have one dedicated sink, shower and toilet assigned to them by Residence Life staff, which will be reserved for their shared use with four or five other students on that same floor. Students within this “nuclear family” are expected to only use these assigned bathroom fixtures and clean them after each use (please see next section). While the ideal is that the student will only use this dedicated sink, shower, and toilet assigned to them, it is understood that there may be rare instances when a student cannot wait if one of these items is in use by another member of their nuclear family. Students living in the apartments and in special-interest houses are considered a nuclear family with those in the same apartment/house.

CLEANING AND HYGIENE EXPECTATIONS

Messiah has aligned expectations based on CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfecting. Students are responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of their living spaces, including common floor living areas, bedrooms, and bathrooms.

- For **bathrooms**, students are expected to use disinfectant spray or wipes to thoroughly clean their sinks, showers, and toilets (especially flushers) after each use. Sinks could be an infection source and residents should avoid placing toothbrushes directly on counter surfaces. Totes can be used for personal items so they do not touch the bathroom countertop. Students are required to take their personal toiletries to and from bathroom in residence hall bathrooms.

- For **common floor living areas**, after each use students are expected to spray and wipe down with disinfectant non-fabric furniture, furniture arms, tables, chairs, study kiosks, and other non-fabric surfaces where they have been congregating.

In addition to student self-cleaning, regular cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces and objects frequently touched will be provided by dedicated Campus Events staff assigned to specific floor communities and common apartment areas. Where self-cleaning is expected, the University will provide cleaning caddies and supplies.

**Mask Wearing**
Protective cloth masks are expected to be worn in the public lounges of residence halls and other common spaces (e.g. study rooms, floor lounges,
laundry rooms, stairwells) when a Falcon Wingspan (approximately six feet) cannot be maintained between individuals. As stated above, after the first two weeks of living as an extended family, the wearing of protective cloth masks will not be required by residents while on their individual floors (assuming the campus is COVID-19 free). Once visitation is safe to resume (see below), the wearing of protective masks will be required of guests throughout the duration of visitation.

**Signage**
Information on COVID-19 expectations will be clearly posted in floor hallways, lounges, laundry rooms, bathrooms of residence halls and in apartment sections. This signage will include, but not be limited to, reminders on symptom monitoring and reporting, and hygiene and respiratory etiquette (i.e., frequent handwashing; avoidance of face touching; appropriate use of hand sanitizer, hand wipes, or hand soap for students, staff and visitors; coughing/sneezing into tissue or crook of arm). The signs will also encourage practicing Falcon Wingspan social distancing (approximately six feet) and limiting contact with those not in a student’s nuclear or extended families.

**Building Entrances and Exits**
Building, floor, and apartment entrances may occasionally have their entrance doors propped to allow for contact-less entry, specifically during move-in and move-out days. Hand sanitizer will be provided at residential entrances, as available. To minimize close contact with others, foot traffic in some buildings may be one-way only. Directional signs should be followed.

**Elevators, Stairwells, Common Hallways**
Given their small interiors, building stairwells and elevators should be used by individuals one at a time whenever possible. Continued mask wearing and social distancing should be practiced. Where possible, tape and floor decals will mark common hallway spaces to assist in flow of traffic and maintaining the six-foot Falcon Wingspan.

**Residence Hall Public Lounges, Study & Recreation Rooms**
Only residents of the building are permitted to use their respective lobbies/basement lounges and study rooms (with the exception of the Fishbowl) for the first two weeks of the semester. If the campus remains free of COVID-19 cases after that, all residential students are permitted in the lobbies/lounges of each buildings (but not floor lounges). Residents are free to use these spaces when a six-foot Falcon Wingspan is able to be
maintained while there. Students should also be mindful of other residents who also wish to use these spaces, limiting their time to an hour or less. Maximum safe occupancy may be limited and posted where applicable. While using these spaces, students are to practice safe social distancing and wear protective cloth masks. Students are expected to use disinfectant spray and wipes to clean surfaces of any common furniture (study desks, chairs, game equipment, etc.) that they have used immediately afterwards.

**Laundry Rooms**

Only residents of the building are permitted to use their respective laundry room. Students are free to use the laundry room when a six-foot Falcon Wingspan is able to be maintained in the space. The wearing of protective cloth masks is necessary when using the laundry room. Separate laundry practices will be in place for students in quarantine due to COVID-19 (see Quarantine section).

**Residence Hall Floor Lounges**

Floor lounges are open to residents of the extended-family floor community only. The wearing of protective cloth masks is required if a Falcon Wingspan (approximately six-feet apart) cannot be maintained. No non-floor members are permitted to congregate there (see Visitation parameters below).

**Residence Hall Kitchenettes: Keep It Clean, Keep It Open**

The use of residence hall kitchenettes is a privilege. If residents keep it clean and disinfected, they can remain open. Refrigerators, stoves, ovens and microwaves will be available for use in floor lounge kitchenettes if residents demonstrate the ability to adhere to cleaning and disinfecting requirements. Sinks are to be used for the washing of dirty dishes only. However, because sinks can be a source of infection, residents should avoid placing cleaned dishes directly on counter surfaces. Students are expected to put their cleaned dishes back in their rooms and spray and wipe down with disinfectant all areas of the sink after each use. This should be done immediately following usage of the sink. There is to be no storage of dishes, plastic or silverware, cups, etc. in the kitchenette area. For health and safety reasons, residents should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, or eating utensils. If needed, students are strongly encouraged to use disposable food service items (preferably recyclable products).

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**VISITATION DURING COVID-19**

Federal and state guidance on reopening safely instruct institutions to limit visitors and non-essential personnel in residential spaces. Ideally, the nuclear and extended family units should remain closed to others, but this is challenging in a community such as ours. For this reason, a phased
approach to visitation will occur to better ensure the health and safety of all.
For the first two weeks of classes, there is no visitation. Students must not enter a floor or apartment or house if they do not reside there. If the campus remains free of COVID-19 cases after two weeks, visitation will resume with modified parameters outlined below.

1. Residential students may visit fellow residential students. Both the hosts and visiting residential students must wear protective cloth masks during the duration of the visit.
2. Until further notice, no off-campus visitors are permitted in university residences, including commuters and student family members.
3. Residential student visitors cannot have had COVID-19 symptoms nor been exposed to someone with the virus within two weeks prior to the visit.
4. Residential student visitors must remain a Falcon Wingspan apart and should not share furniture together with another person at the same time (futons, couches, chairs, room beds, etc.). Furniture should be cleaned and disinfected immediately after use.
5. Residential student visitors are not permitted to be in floor lounges.
6. No floor bathroom use by residential student visitors. Residential student visitors may use the public restrooms located in the main building spaces.
7. There is a maximum limit of three individuals in a traditional residence hall single or double room; four individuals in a traditional residence hall triple room.
8. Residents in apartments are limited to three additional residential visitors at a time with the ability to maintain a Falcon Wingspan apart. As always, no visitation in bedrooms by the opposite sex.
9. Each special interest house will be provided with a maximum occupancy related to residential student visitors.
10. Resident assistants are considered essential personnel and will perform walking rounds throughout floors and buildings, per usual, but wearing protective cloth masks as they do. Adjustments may be made as necessary for health and safety reasons. Other authorized campus employees will also be permitted access to residential spaces on an as-needed basis with health and safety requirements in place.
If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the campus community, visitation may be restricted or eliminated to mitigate the spread of the virus. If this occurs, applicable guidance will be communicated to residents in a timely fashion.

**TRAVELING OFF CAMPUS**

Residential students should only leave campus when necessary. The more residents travel off campus, the greater the risk of being exposed to COVID-19 and introducing it to our campus community. If students are aware of exposure to someone with COVID-19 while off campus, they should contact the Engle Center to inform them and receive guidance.

**ISOLATION/QUARANTINE**

In support of self-monitoring and reporting requirements, any resident who has an exposure to COVID-19 or who registers a fever of greater than 100.4 or experiences other symptoms of the COVID-19 virus will be required to contact the Engle Center for Health and Counseling Services, self-quarantine and follow their directives. In some cases, students will be required to remain in their rooms in quarantine with meal and laundry service delivered or be isolated in Smith A or B until they are cleared to resume normal activity. Remote learning will be available in these situations. See section on isolation and quarantine under public health protocol for additional information.

**ROLE OF RESIDENCE LIFE STAFF RELATED TO COVID-19 PARAMETERS**

In addition to student-to-student communication expectations to encourage compliance with *COVID-19 Life Together Expectations*, Residence Life staff will also encourage and enforce compliance. They will specifically urge residents to daily self-monitor and report, to practice social distancing, and to wear protective cloth masks per expectations. They will refer repeat violators of these expectations to the student conduct process.

Residence Life staff are expected to maintain the confidentiality of any sick residents as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and, if applicable, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
Residence Life staff will also serve as educators, communicating regularly with residents on the seriousness of COVID-19 and continuing to make them aware of related policies and protocols. Residence Life staff will also assist in communicating any changes to these policies and protocols.

Residence Life programming will primarily be delivered within extended-family floor communities for residence hall floors and will utilize both socially distant, in-person platforms (when feasible) and remote delivery (as able). Additional on-campus programming will occur when possible.
MESSIAH UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY PROMISE

As a community of Christians, we embrace the life and teachings of Jesus as exemplary and instructive for how we are to live in relationship with God, God’s creation, and our neighbors, especially in this season of COVID-19. In Luke 10, Jesus answers the question “who is my neighbor” by telling the story of the Good Samaritan who gives extraordinary compassion and care to a stranger who had been robbed, beaten, and left for dead. Jesus instructs us to ‘go and do likewise.’ This season of COVID-19 will continue to provide many opportunities for us as members of the Messiah University community to live compassionately and generously with one another by promising to live in accordance with the COVID-19 parameters listed below. Together we can serve and protect our neighbors as well as ourselves and strive to keep our campus virus-free.

I promise to take responsibility for the protection of my neighbors and for my own health. I promise to be a ‘Good Samaritan’ by giving compassionately and generously to help keep the Messiah University community safe from the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses. As a member of the Messiah University community, I promise to:

PROTECT MY NEIGHBOR
- Maintain a Falcon Wingspan (6 feet or more) physical distance both indoors and outdoors.
- Wear a protective mask in public areas and inside all buildings, as well as outdoors when the Falcon Wingspan cannot be maintained. (Exceptions include when eating or exercising outdoors with adequate physical distancing.)
- Stay home if I feel ill or after exposure to someone who is ill or has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Frequently wash my hands and use hand sanitizer.
- Shield others when coughing or sneezing.
- As applicable, abide by COVID-19 parameters established for residential students, including visitation and bathroom assignment requirements.
- Disinfect my living and working space and personal items regularly.
PROTECT MYSELF
- Practice symptom monitoring by taking my body temperature daily before leaving my residence at the start of each day.
- Record this temperature via the Falcon Health COVID-19 Check-In Program on FalconLink. Students and day-shift employees should do this no later than noon each day.
- Follow prompts for seeking medical attention if necessary.

PROTECT THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY
- Be a positive influence on others, holding my neighbors accountable to these expectations with grace.
- Live out my promise every day, remaining unwavering in my commitment, being mindful that our University community is in this for the foreseeable future.
- Stay positive, be prayerful, helpful and hopeful to anyone who may need assistance

Messiah University expects campus members of our community to fulfill their promise both on- and off-campus. Abiding by this promise protects the health and safety of the community as well as Messiah University’s ability to offer an “in person” educational experience. We also ask that remote learners pray for the health and safety of their fellow students and instructors. Together we can live out the teachings of Jesus as we serve and protect our neighbors, ourselves and strive to keep our campus virus-free.