What do the first two weeks on campus look like for an RA during the pandemic?

Prior to residents’ arrival, RAs must post all relevant signs provided by the institution and ensure that cleaning supplies from our cleaning and facilities staff are readily available in public spaces as directed by their Area Director (AD). To better enforce this policy, it is imperative for RAs to quickly familiarize themselves with the residents in their hall. RAs should know the majority of residents’ names in their assigned area by the end of the second week of each semester. During the pandemic, students are permitted to visit students only within their own complex (subject to change).

How has COVID-19 affected community building, and how can RAs host programs safely?

All hall meetings, programming, and residential interactions must adhere to local, state, and College gathering guidelines or be held online on Zoom (The College will provide all RAs Pro-Zoom accounts). RA office hours may be optional, depending on the directions of the AD.

RAs should demonstrate sensitivity to the needs of all students and their own comfort levels with in-person interaction during the pandemic. Programs may take the form of socially-distanced and/or online activities. All in-person events must be approved by Conferences & Events, and the RA must ensure all participants follow appropriate COVID-19 mitigation guidelines. Potential community builders may include campus scavenger hunts, hikes in Tryon Creek, online game tournaments, virtual yoga, and Zoom movie nights.

What does being on duty look like during the pandemic?

RAs must know and observe COVID-19 mitigation policies. They set an exemplary standard of behavior while in residence, on campus, and in the company of other students at all times. The College will supply RAs with the necessary PPE for maintaining safety while on the job. While conducting duty walks, RAs help ensure that residents are wearing a mask in public spaces at all times, maintaining a distance of at least six feet from people not in their pod, only visiting with students from within the complex (subject to change), and observing maximum occupancies.
How has the COVID-19 Mitigation Policy affected the RA Position?
RAs should inform residents of COVID-19 mitigation policies, help interpret guidelines as necessary, and notify the Professional Staff on-call of any scenarios needing attention. Policy violations, including not adhering to maximum occupancies or residential visitor guidelines, should also be documented as they occur in one of these formats. Frequent or blatant violations of mitigation policies should be documented to Student Rights & Responsibilities and may result in removing the resident(s) from campus. More details on this process will be discussed at Fall Resident Advisor Training.

How do RAs collaborate with other on-campus partners (like Campus Safety) when faced with challenges with the COVID-19 Mitigation Policy?
If an RA is uncertain how to handle a scenario or feels uncomfortable managing a situation on their own, the Professional Staff on-call can quickly provide guidance. RAs have several options. They may opt to call their backup RA if the incident occurs during a weekend shift. Some staff members or teams may feel comfortable responding for assistance if the incident occurs in their assigned area. Campus Safety can also be a valuable resource, mainly when RAs come across a blatant violation of maximum occupancy or when residents are not cooperative with Campus Living procedures.

*If hired, more details to questions can and will be answered in depth at Resident Advisor Fall Training*