

BOWDOIN COLLEGE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY AGREEMENT

Commitment to the [common good](#) is the hallmark of Bowdoin's community standards. In an effort to keep Bowdoin's residential community as safe and healthy as possible, and to promote the ability to continue some in-person operations during the 2020–2021 academic year, this residential community agreement aims to lay out the essential need to focus on the common good and the standards for keeping our community safe. Our community must make a collective effort to minimize person-to-person transmission of COVID-19 and to protect all members of our campus and our Brunswick neighbors.

Our ability to meet these goals relies heavily on the residential community's willingness to commit to practices that promote responsible, healthy decisions, and that mitigate the spread of infection on campus. Although much remains unknown about COVID-19, it is clear that this illness is highly contagious and can be life-threatening. Contrary to some reports, COVID-19 impacts people of all ages. There is currently no vaccine or effective treatment.

Students who make the decision to be in residence must commit to adhering fully to this Residential Community Agreement ("Agreement"), which is a crucial part of the College community's efforts to mitigate risk and slow the spread of illness. Students who choose to be in residence acknowledge that, even with recommended mitigation efforts, doing so poses some risk of COVID-19 infection. While that risk cannot be eliminated, it can be reduced, and the more everyone does their part to manage COVID-19, the more successful our efforts will be.

Our community must look out for one another and be willing to do this together. Students who are unable to comply with this agreement should not come to campus and should instead opt to continue their studies online from home or from another residence.

This is a community-wide effort that requires the cooperation of students, faculty, and staff. This Agreement outlines the responsibilities for our students in residence. By accepting a housing assignment and living on-campus, a student agrees to the following:

Health and Wellness

1. Students in residence must comply with all health and safety guidelines and requirements outlined by the [Campus Status System](#) (CSS) and information contained within the [Bowdoin College Campus Guide](#). Students are responsible for knowing the current status levels and for following the corresponding health and safety protocols. The current status will be posted online daily, and students will be informed of a change in status via electronic push notification (i.e., email or text) and campus signage.
2. Students must comply with Bowdoin's testing, tracing, and quarantining protocols and related information in the Campus Safety Measures and Protocols as outlined in the [Campus Guide](#). Students must also comply with guidance or requirements as provided for by the Maine Center for Disease Control.

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3. Students are required to wear a mask or appropriate face covering at all times except in a student's private bedroom. Bowdoin will provide all students in residence with two cloth face coverings, and students may bring and wear their own appropriate face coverings. Students should possess one face covering of their own to be worn upon their arrival to campus to move in.
4. Students must observe physical distancing—defined as a minimum of a six-foot distance from others—and good hygiene practices, such as washing hands and properly wearing a face covering at all times where required, including when off campus (please see *Off-Campus Activity and Travel* below).
5. Students must submit a daily symptom check before leaving their room each morning using an app provided by the College and report immediately to [Health Services](#) with any new or unexplained symptoms, which may include but are not limited to: feeling feverish or unexplained chills; cough; shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; fatigue; muscle or body aches; headache; loss of taste or smell; sore throat; congestion or runny nose; or nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
6. Students agree to follow the recommendations of Health Services, including testing, quarantine, and self-isolating.
7. Students are expected to keep themselves informed and educated on the [latest information](#) about COVID-19. The College is committed to assisting in this effort. Distribution of information about the illness and how to safely interact with other people will be distributed throughout the semester through signage, email bulletins, town halls, and other communication methods. Please continue to check [Bowdoin's FAQ for Students](#) for updated information.

Residential Policies

1. Only students approved to be in residence may occupy College property. This includes but is not limited to academic buildings and spaces (i.e., tents), residential spaces, College offices, libraries, Smith Union, and athletic facilities (including outdoor tracks, courts, and fields).
2. Although some social gatherings are permissible (*please see On-Campus Gatherings, Parties, and Social Events below*), only one (1) student may sleep in a bedroom.
3. Students are not permitted to host or allow guests anywhere on campus for any period of time.

For purposes of this Agreement, a "guest" is defined as anyone other than an enrolled Bowdoin student in residence with written permission from a College official to be on campus. "Guests" include but are not limited to: family members; non-Bowdoin friends;

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prospective students; enrolled Bowdoin students without permission to be on campus; and Bowdoin students who are on a leave of absence (e.g., personal, medical, disciplinary, etc.) from the College.

4. Students agree to adhere to all dining facility policies as published by [Bowdoin Dining Service](#).
5. Housing will be available for the fall 2020 semester beginning on Tuesday, August 29, 2020, until Saturday, November 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
6. Students in residence must develop a plan for departing campus in the event Bowdoin is required to unexpectedly close campus due to a COVID-19 outbreak or other public health emergency. Students will have seventy-two (72) hours from the time of any closure announcement to depart campus.

The College recognizes that a sudden closure may present challenges for some members of our community. Should Bowdoin be required to close campus before November 21, students who would experience undue hardship as a result of closure will have an opportunity to bring their situation to the attention of the College. However, the College wants to be as transparent as possible that it is currently unknown how much, if at all, Bowdoin will be able to assist, which is why all students are asked to please plan accordingly.

A plan should include how the student will travel from campus, where they will stay, and how they will remove their belongings. As students create their plans, they are encouraged to consider the following:

- **Travel:** Before purchasing a plane, train, or bus ticket, read the rules and restrictions carefully and confirm that changes are allowed. A ticket without restrictions could save hundreds of dollars. For more information, visit [the “campus arrival” section of the FAQs](#).
- **Housing:** If campus closes, students do not necessarily need to return home. Determine who nearby—friends or family—could accommodate housing for a short period of time. International students with visas should please contact Dean Khoa Khuong for guidance.
- **Belongings:** Although Bowdoin is not restricting the number of belongings students can bring to campus this fall, students are nevertheless encouraged to think critically about what essentials they will need on campus and whether all items can be packed quickly.
- **Host a Student:** Consider whether your family would be willing and able to host a displaced student for some or all of the remainder of the semester. If your family is able and willing, please contact the [director of residential education](#).

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On-Campus Gatherings, Parties, and Social Events

During the semester, the [Office of Residential Life](#) will not register parties or events. However, students may gather within certain guidelines. The gathering limits described below are subject to change—specifically, they may be decreased—depending on the [CSS level](#). Prior to gathering, students are expected to check the CSS and comply with the restrictions that correspond with the current campus status level. Students participating in any gathering must observe health and safety guidelines, including physical distancing practices, and properly wear a face covering or mask indoors.

Remember: the threat of a community outbreak increases as a result of irresponsible actions. If students are unable to abide by these guidelines, the College will need to limit the number of students permitted to gather, reduce spaces where students are allowed to gather, or cancel in-person college-sponsored events.

For purposes of this Agreement, a “gathering” is defined as the convening of two or more students, whether planned, casual, or spontaneous, in any space on campus, whether indoors or outside. It includes parties, organized events, casual socializing, or activities.

Gatherings are permitted only under the following conditions:

1. **Gatherings of students from one core group:** These gatherings are limited to not more than twenty (20) students who are assigned to live in a single “core group.” For first-year students and transfer students, this core group consists of all students affiliated with a proctor group. For upperclass students, the core group is the student’s suitemates.

No one other than a student assigned to live in that core group may attend the gathering. These gatherings can occur within that core group’s common spaces. Examples of common spaces include semi-private areas like a suite’s common room or public spaces such as floor common rooms. Gatherings cannot be held within individual bedrooms. Face coverings or masks must be properly worn at all times.

2. **Gatherings of students from at least two core groups:** These gatherings can be attended by students assigned to different core groups in a semi-private or common space where all students can practice physical distancing (as defined above) and remain six feet apart.
 - a. **Indoor Gatherings:** The total number of students may not exceed ten (10), and only if all ten (10) students are able to practice physical distancing. This includes in residence halls and any other indoor gathering places on campus.

Examples of common spaces include semi-private areas like a suite's common room, floor common rooms, or other areas students have been given permission to congregate such as 30 College Street or the Sexuality, Women, and Gender Center (SWAG). Gatherings

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cannot be held within individual bedrooms. Face coverings or masks must be properly worn at all times.

- b. **Outdoor Gatherings:** If a gathering is held outside, up to twenty (20) students may attend within physical distance guidelines.
3. **College-Sponsored:** Indoor gatherings sponsored by the College—including those hosted by a recognized chartered Bowdoin student group with permission to host a gathering—are limited to not more than fifteen (15) students in residence. If the gathering occurs outdoors, gatherings are limited to a maximum of twenty (20) people and may take place only in the spaces that have been designated to safely accommodate the size of the gathering.

Per the [Alcohol and Substance Use](#) policy, no alcohol is permitted in any first-year residence and hard alcohol is not permitted anywhere on campus.

Off-Campus Activity and Travel

Any student who leaves campus, regardless of the reason, is required to practice physical distancing (six feet or more from others at all times) and wear a face covering or mask when maintaining six-foot distance cannot reasonably occur. Failure to practice these safety measures while off-campus may result in disciplinary consequences. Students should consult the Campus Guide for additional information about travel and off-campus activity, including any restrictions that might apply to vehicle use or parking.

Travel Within the Brunswick Area: Students may leave campus to attend to personal business or other matters within the greater Brunswick area. The College expects students to be responsible and to use their best judgement when conducting their personal business. For example, a student should not enter a business establishment where customers or workers are not practicing physical distancing.

Travel Outside the State of Maine: For information regarding travel off-campus, within, or outside the state of Maine, students should consult the [Campus Guide](#). Failure to comply with the travel requirements as provided in the Campus Guide constitute a violation of College policy.

Private, Off-Campus Residences: Bowdoin's efforts to minimize risk to campus depend on the cooperation of all members of the College community. Because of the significant threat to the health and well-being of the residential community, students in residence may not go to a private residence or attend any gatherings—indoors or outdoors—as defined by this Agreement held at a private, off-campus residence. This includes those hosted by Bowdoin students living anywhere in Brunswick or beyond. This applies to meals with student's family

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or host family,* meetings with an academic advisor or other faculty member, babysitting, pet-sitting, and so on.

Students in residence who attend or participate in gatherings off campus that violate College policy (including this Agreement), or that come to the attention of the Brunswick Police Department will face disciplinary consequences. *(Please see the Disciplinary Action section below.)*

Disciplinary Action

The College takes seriously its role in promoting responsible health and safety measures for the good of the campus community, the Brunswick community, residents of Maine, and a student's family and home community. Bowdoin anticipates that students will do their part to keep campus safe and follow the guidelines, but for health and safety reasons, even minor violations of this Agreement or other College policies related to COVID-19 will not be permissible.

Mistakes will happen; however, minor or unintentional violations will have consequences. While the initial response to mistakes or minor violations will focus on education, students who repeatedly (defined as three or more) violate this Agreement or other policies will be referred to a conduct response *(described in Section 2 below)*.

1. **Educational Outcomes:** In general, mistakes or minor violations will be handled as follows:
 - a. A first minor violation or mistake will result in an educational conversation with either a member of [Peer Health](#) or [Health Services](#), or a mediation with a [residential life staff member](#).
 - b. A second minor violation will result in an educational conversation and/or mediation with a dean and a written reprimand.

2. **Disciplinary Outcomes:** Students who commit repeated violations (three or more)—whether minor violations or mistakes—or at least one serious transgression of this Agreement or other College policies will face [disciplinary action](#). This may include but is not limited to: an administrative hearing before a dean or Judicial Board hearing; immediate removal from campus; and/or immediate suspension. A student who is removed from campus may be permitted to continue the semester via digital learning, but they will not be eligible for any refund of room and board.

Examples of serious violations include, but are not limited to:

* The Community Host Program will not be facilitated by the College during the 2020-2021 academic year and no host families will be assigned to the Class of 2024. Some returning upper-classmen may have an established relationship with a host family.

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- a. Repeated (three or more) mistakes or minor violations despite educational efforts;
- b. Engaging in behavior that endangers or disregards the health and safety of other members of campus, such as repeatedly disobeying public health directives from the College or from state and/or federal public health authorities;
- c. Hosting a gathering (defined above) that does not comply with the requirements for gatherings as outlined above;
- d. Hosting, inviting, or allowing off-campus guests (defined above) who are not permitted to be on campus;
- e. Hosting another student in residence in a private bedroom;
- f. Failure to comply with campus testing, tracing, or quarantining protocols. For example: missing more than one test; purposefully suppressing or refusing to report symptoms; or failure to follow quarantine; or
- g. Attending, participating in, inviting other students to attend, or helping to host an off-campus gathering.

Other College Policies

In addition to the terms of this Agreement, students are bound by the [policies governing student conduct](#), including the [Academic Honor Code and Social Code](#), which are incorporated by reference into this Agreement. Should a discrepancy exist between this Agreement and other Bowdoin College student conduct policies, this Agreement will govern.

Updates and Revisions

It may become necessary to update this Agreement based on public health guidance and changing circumstances. Additional measures to control the spread of COVID-19 may be implemented at any time as new health and safety guidance becomes available. Updates and revisions to this Agreement will be communicated to students via email by the [dean of students](#) or designee. As email is the official means of communication by the College, students are expected to check their email on a regular, daily basis.