

Communication to Resident Students re: semester move-out from VP Holbrook

11/15/20

Dear Students,

We continue to monitor state and local COVID-19 data carefully as we close out the residential portion of the fall semester. We wanted to provide a few key updates based on the most recent information from Governor Baker.

Friday night, Massachusetts added New York to the list of “red states” that are unsafe for continued travel. We know because of our close proximity that this creates additional complications for some of our students. We understand that the latest information and restrictions necessitates a greater need for flexibility in our move out process and end of semester course delivery to keep you and your family as safe as possible.

Resident Students

If you have not yet signed up for a move-out date, please do so now. We are allowing any student to change their move-out day and time for an earlier slot if that is better for you and your family. Due to these unexpected circumstances we are also allowing a corresponding flexibility in your courses, and we are asking faculty to accommodate your leaving campus early to return home and begin your remote studies early.

Those who have confirmed a move-out date will also receive a corresponding COVID-19 test date. Everyone is scheduled approximately 48 hours prior to move out, but not more than 72 hours as some states require those returning to that state to have a negative result taken no earlier than 72 hours before arriving in that state. All resident students must confirm a move-out date with Residential Programs and Services.

Commuter Students

Commuter students have also expressed some concern, particularly those traveling from NY or Vermont to Massachusetts and those living in the Pittsfield area, which has seen a significant increase in cases. MCLA remains one of the safest spaces in Berkshire County. Nevertheless, faculty have been asked to accommodate students who do not feel they can safely travel between campus and their homes.

Please note that due to the extenuating circumstances of the last few days, Academic Affairs has communicated the need for greater flexibility to your faculty, and faculty now have the option to move to fully online instruction this week. Please check your email for information from your instructors in the event they have decided to move your course online.

We seek to provide everyone with options this week that will facilitate a safe as possible and smooth as possible transition to complete the semester. We thank you for your patience.

For questions regarding the move-out process or testing please contact me directly. For questions regarding coursework, please contact your instructors or VP Wootters.

Best,
Cathy