MESABI RANGE COLLEGE COVID-19 HOUSING ADDENDUM

Update: August 21, 2020

Mesabi Range College aims to fulfill its mission while protecting the health and safety of our students and minimizing the potential spread of disease within our community. As a resident, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) or similar public health crisis will impact your housing experience as Housing & Residential Life (HRL) continues to make public health-informed decisions. The below policies and guidelines are incorporated into the Mesabi Range College Housing Contract and are applicable to all residents. As always, we plan to update you with timely information about specific health and safety guidance important for our residents.

Acknowledgement of Risk

Mesabi Range College holds as paramount the health, safety, and welfare of every member of its community. Mesabi Range College, however, cannot guarantee a COVID-19-free environment. Unfortunately, the risk of COVID-19 exposure exists in all public places where people are present. Mesabi Range College is taking all recommended steps to mitigate this risk, but we cannot categorically guarantee you will not get sick. Minimizing the risk of COVID-19 infections (or any other spread of disease) at Mesabi Range College is a shared responsibility. As outlined below, every member of our community — including you — must do their part. You understand that if you return to the physical campus of Mesabi Range College, there is a risk you may contract COVID-19 and you acknowledge that illness, injury or death is a possible result.

Health and Safety

We expect that all members of the residence hall community — residents, staff, and visitors — act in a manner that demonstrates respect and consideration for those around them, including respect and consideration for the health and safety of all community members. All residents are prohibited from creating a health or safety hazard, and Mesabi Range College may request or require a resident to leave the residence halls if their continued presence in the housing community poses a health or safety risk for community members. Residents are required to comply with health and safety laws, orders, ordinances, regulations and health and safety guidance adopted by Mesabi Range College or HRL as it relates to public health crises, including COVID-19. This guidance will evolve as the public health crisis evolves and may include, but is not limited to, social distancing, limitations on mass gatherings, wearing a face covering, COVID-19 diagnostic and surveillance testing (including before or upon/after arrival to campus), contact tracing, disinfection protocols, limitations on guests into residence halls, and quarantine/isolation requirements (including before or upon/after arrival to campus). Adherence to health and safety requirements applies to all residents, staff and visitors and extends to all aspects of residential life, including bedrooms, bathrooms, community kitchens, lounges, study rooms, courtyards, and other common spaces.

Quarantine/ Isolation/ Separation

At any time, Mesabi Range College may request or require a resident to leave the residence halls when that resident's continued presence in the housing community poses a health or safety risk for community members. Residents are required to comply with requests from HRL to leave their
assigned space due to COVID-19 or other public health emergency and failure to do so is a violation of the terms of the agreement, and may subject a student to administrative removal from their assigned space. Not all HRL resident rooms or halls are appropriate for self-quarantine or self-isolation, for example – and in those situations where a resident is recommended to self-quarantine or self-isolate – residents may not be permitted to continue residing in their residential space. The college will work with residents to find an alternative housing arrangement. Removal to isolate or quarantine does not constitute a termination of a resident’s housing contract.

**De-Densifying Efforts**

Residents are required to comply with any de-densifying efforts needed on campus due to COVID-19 or other public health emergency, including, but not limited to, the relocation of all or some residents to alternative housing. Relocation does not constitute a termination of a resident’s housing contract. Due to health and safety guidance adopted by Mesabi Range College, campus dining may limit the occupancy of dining halls, limit the amount of time students may reside within dining halls, or make other operational adjustments needed to address health and safety concerns.

**Cleaning**

HRL will continue to implement and modify its cleaning protocols to address COVID-19 or other public health emergency in the interest of minimizing the spread of disease. HRL will educate and inform residents on appropriate cleaning protocols within their assigned spaces to reduce the spread of COVID-19 within residence halls.

**Termination**

The Housing contract signed by residents is binding for the full academic year. Unless required by Executive Order of the Governor of Minnesota, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Chancellor, or Mesabi Range College leadership to close housing and send residents home, the college will continue to support residents as they fulfill their academic responsibilities, even as those residents are under quarantine or in isolation. In the event residents are sent home (as described above), the college is not obligated to provide reimbursement for tuition and/or housing for the remainder of the semester/academic year.

Students may petition for release from their housing contract only for those reasons stated in the contract. COVID-19 does not qualify as an extraordinary circumstance unless student is directed by a medical professional to vacate housing and return home. Documentation will be required.

In the event of a conflict between this COVID-19 Housing Addendum and other Mesabi Range College policies and the remaining section of the terms of agreement, this addendum will apply.

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Mesabi Range College