

FAQ -- Student Housing, Departure and Dining Services

Last updated 10 am 3/13/2020

Is the College sending students home?

Yes. Now that the College has transitioned to remote teaching and learning, we are asking students to leave campus housing. Students for whom leaving campus would be a significant hardship or impossibility should identify themselves using this [form](#).

What if I cannot or would prefer not to go home?

We ask those students for whom leaving campus would be a significant hardship or impossibility to identify themselves using this [form](#) by Sunday, March 15. The form will be reviewed by the Dean of Students, the Dean of Studies, and the Acting Dean of the College, who will consult with others (including International Student Services staff, FLoW advisor, Financial Aid staff), as needed to receive permission to remain.

Requests can be made for:

- An extension of time to prepare and make travel arrangements
- Permission to remain on campus for the rest of the Spring term

We know that Bennington feels like home to many students and remaining on campus is something they would prefer. We ask that students consider the risks to the larger Bennington College community -- especially those staff and faculty in high-risk categories -- and the recommendations of our local health officials that support the need to implement social distancing. Our tight-knit house communities are not built to promote social distancing and we will need to reduce the density in housing in order to comply with best practice recommendations.

Why can't all students remain in campus housing when the College shifts to remote teaching and learning?

We must limit the number of students who can remain on campus to ensure we can responsibly support the level of care necessary for all remaining students in the event that COVID-19 reaches and spreads on campus. In most cases, returning home is the safest option for students.

The factors we must consider are:

- the number of patients Dr. Randy can safely care for and monitor;
- the amount space we will need for students in isolation while waiting for COVID-19 test results;
- the amount space we will need for students who have confirmed COVID-19 cases;
- the amount of space we will need to reduce the densely populated houses to promote the level of social distancing that is needed to slow or stop the spread of this virus; and
- the capacity of our local hospital.

Will we be able to store belongings in our rooms?

Due to the need to ask students to leave campus housing quickly for this unprecedented public health crisis, we are arranging storage options for personal belongings of students who need them. All items to be placed in storage must be in plastic bins with lids and labeled with students' full name. No food items may be stored. A limited number of plastic bins are available from Student Life which can be picked up between 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday-Friday.

Lower Third Street (Fels, Noyes & Sawtell)

Students in Fels, Noyes and Sawtell can store items in their house basement. *Items should be in plastic bins with lids and labeled with first and last name.*

Second Street (Booth, Bingham, Kilpatrick, Leigh, McCullough & Welling)

Students on 2nd Street (Booth, Bingham, Kilpatrick, Leigh, McCullough and Welling) can store items in the Bingham House basement. *Items should be in plastic bins with lids and labeled with first and last name.*

Welling Townhouse

All students living in the Welling Townhouse can store items in the Welling Townhouse basement. *Items should be in plastic bins with lids and labeled with first and last name.*

Paran Creek

All students living in Paran Creek can store items in the Study Rooms. We will work to fill one study room at a time. *Items should be in plastic bins with lids and labeled with first and last name.*

All Other Houses (Canfield, Dewey, Franklin, Longmeadow, Merck, Paris-Borden, Perkins, Shingle, Stokes, Swan, Woolley)

All other students who need storage will be asked to bring plastic bins/totes to the Student Center for temporary storage which will be moved to a permanent location as soon as possible.

Will there be transportation to Albany Airport and Albany-Rensselaer train station?

Yes. If you are in need of transportation to Albany International Airport and Albany-Rensselaer Train Station, please contact [Student Life](#). Students will not be assessed a fee for transportation.

Will the dining hall be open?

Yes, the dining hall will still be open.

Is it safe to eat in the dining hall if I am still on Campus?

In our continued effort to elevate safety and sanitary conditions in dining services, several modifications to dining are in process, with most taking full effect on Monday (3/16). As always, please don't hesitate to contact dining@bennington.edu should you have any questions during this time and we thank you for your ongoing patience and cooperation.

We have installed magnetic stripe card readers at both kiosks to eliminate the exchange of ID cards and instead allow self-swipe access. The kiosk at the front entrance is equipped with an accessible card reader and please note that by next Monday, this will be the only point of entrance into the dining hall.

Roz's Cafe and the Student Kitchen will close on Monday (3/16) so that all staff are able to assist with additional safety measures. These measures include transitioning from self-service dining (where you serve yourself) to plated service with single use compostable dishware. This experience will be similar to what you see in most cafeterias. You'll notice that cereals, fruits, soups, and desserts will be behind the salad bar and that salads will be menu'ed. Staff will assist you in obtaining beverages including milk for cereals. As all food will be served on disposable dishware, you are welcome to eat in the dining hall or take your food to go. That said, please do not bring your own mugs, water bottles, or dishware into the dining hall until further notice.