

## Center for Fraternity & Sorority Life

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**From:** Schacht, Leslie  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 6:27 PM  
**To:** Center for Fraternity & Sorority Life  
**Cc:** Dougherty, Kevin A; Peters, Johnny B; Elam-Geuting, Kelsey K  
**Subject:** Housed Fraternity/Sorority Closures  
**Attachments:** Barracks Layout Jan 2010.pdf

**Importance:** High

### Housed Fraternity/Sorority Leadership:

Thank you for your patience as we gathered more guidance from the Benton County Health Department regarding housed fraternities and sororities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The information below provides guidance regarding sleeping porches and housed chapter capacity. **Currently, the guidance from the Benton County Health Department is that student housing – where residents utilize sleeping porches or any form of congregate living that does not enable appropriate social distancing – should be closed.** If you are unable to close, considerable restrictions need to immediately be put in place in respect to social distancing. If your chapter decides to not close, remember that it is the responsibility of the chapter to enforce social distancing among all members who choose to continue living in the housed fraternity or sorority.

Additionally, Gov. Kate Brown issued an [Executive Order](#) earlier today, Monday, March 23, 2020, that outlines updated guidance for all Oregonians. In that order, she identifies that fraternal organizations are prohibited from operating during this time. We recommend that you share the Executive Order immediately with your inter/national organization so that they may provide you further direction on chapter operations given this Executive Order.

We understand that this could be challenging news to learn if your chapter was planning to remain open for spring term. We know that several chapters have already made the decision to close, and we appreciate you keeping us updated in your decision making. We are available to consult and discuss how your chapter can implement this guidance from the Benton County Health Department. Let us know how we can assist. **Please complete this updated form no later than Wednesday, March 25, to indicate your chapter's updated spring term plans.**

For additional information:

- **Corvallis Campus Residence Halls Remain Open:** If you have members who may face housing insecurity for spring term based on your fraternity or sorority house closing, know that on-campus housing managed by [University Housing & Dining Services \(UHDS\)](#) remains open. Students are welcome to sign contracts for spring term through the MyUHDS portal.
- **Housing Insecure Students:** OSU would like to support students who will be without housing should a chapter close. If you have a chapter member who would like assistance, you can submit their name on [this form](#), and we will work directly with them to identify housing options.

Please respond with any questions that we can help to address, and be assured that we will provide updated information as available. Continue to stay informed by checking the [COVID-19 Information](#) on the OSU homepage. You can access information shared with fraternity/sorority leadership by [clicking here](#).

Interfraternally,

**Kevin A. Dougherty, Ed.D.**

Associate Vice Provost & Dean of Students

**Leslie Schacht Drey**

Associate Dean of Students & Director, Center for Fraternity & Sorority Life

**Communication from Benton County Health Department officials:**

Based on information provided by OSU and the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic, Benton County Health Department's position is that at this time sleeping porches present a serious risk to the health and safety of residents, and put the community at risk of further spread of this infectious disease.

Benton County Health Department recommends:

- 1) Close OSU-affiliated student housing where residents utilize sleeping porches or any form of congregate living that violates social distancing.
- 2) If a house cannot close, limit total house occupancy to 25.
- 3) Limit people inside the home at any one time or event, to a maximum of 25.
- 4) Cease all social events hosted by the housed chapter.
- 5) Maintain minimum 6 feet distancing at all times and for all activities, including but not limited to meals and studying.
- 6) Redistribute beds and bunks throughout the home as able while still meeting fire safety guidelines. Utilize the attached bunk arrangement document developed by the U.S. Army.

*This is a rapidly evolving situation and recommendations are subject to change at any time.*

*U.S. Army recommendations were developed in 2010 for general guidance to prevent the spread of disease in barracks.*