

SENT MARCH 24, 2021

Dear Undergraduate Students:

We hope this email finds you well at the midpoint of the Spring semester. We are writing with exciting news about our plans for university housing in the fall semester as well as the Room Selection process that will launch on April 5, 2021. This is the first in a series of emails you will be receiving in the coming weeks to help guide you through your decision-making process related to housing for next year.

As outlined in a [recent message from Provost Garrett](#), the university is adopting an optimistic planning posture for the next academic year, grounded in the expansion of vaccine access and the emergence of public health guidance relevant to campus life. In keeping with this posture, our staff in Housing Services and Residential Education are eager to amplify the meaningful in-person experiences and opportunities as we safely re-densify our house communities. We expect on-campus living next year to look much more like our house communities did in pre-pandemic times, providing opportunities, services and programs that facilitate meaningful in-person social connections we know we long for. We can't imagine a better time to be opening our first newly-constructed housing facility in almost two decades, the [residence hall at Fifth and Clyde](#), which includes the first of several planned neighborhood commons spaces designed to activate and cultivate student, faculty and staff connections in our neighborhoods along Fifth Avenue, Morewood Avenue and Margaret Morrison Street.

Our plan for the fall semester is predicated on assumptions driving the university's planning related to the mitigation of the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Presuming that US-based vaccines are plentiful in supply and fully approved for regular use by the FDA, we anticipate requiring that all residential students be vaccinated (or, alternatively, have obtained an accommodation based on medical or religious grounds) by the start of the fall semester. This expectation, in concert with supporting measures, will position us to relax and adjust some of the residential mitigation strategies we have had to employ this year. For example, next year, we are planning to re-densify our common lounges, re-open our community kitchens and fitness/recreational spaces, and modify our guest/visitor restrictions. Details on our current plans can be found on the [Fall 2021 Housing Plans website](#).

We hope you are excited about the prospect of living in university housing next year as an essential element of your in-person campus experience. We are pleased to announce that the [Room Selection website](#) is now live. It outlines a completely redesigned Room Selection process that is responsive to many of the unusual factors that have affected our approach to CMU housing over the past year. In particular, all full-time undergraduates who are currently first-years, sophomores, juniors or non-graduating seniors are eligible for Room Selection, regardless of whether or not you are currently living on campus.

All students planning to participate in Room Selection should familiarize themselves with the new processes over the next two weeks. During that time, we will be sending informational emails and offering Zoom information sessions to provide you with an overview of the entire Room Selection process. The Zoom sessions will be a great opportunity for you to ask the questions you might have. You can also find the following information online:

- [Eligibility Information](#)
- [Room Selection Phases](#)
- [Housing Options](#)

- [Important Dates and Deadlines](#)
- [What's New for Room Selection 2021](#)

Housing Services and Residential Education are excited to welcome you to your new CMU neighborhood for the 2021-2022 academic year!

Please contact us at 412-268-2139 or rmassign@andrew.cmu.edu with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Tom Cooley
Executive Director of Housing Services

Tera Monroe
Associate Dean of Student Affairs
Director of Residential Education

Not interested in receiving Room Selection emails?

We realize that some students may already have other housing plans for the 2021-2022 academic year, and if that is the case, we want to give you an opportunity to “opt-out” of any future Room Selection emails. If you wish to opt-out, please just [log into the Housing Portal to complete the “Room Selection D-List Opt-Out Form.”](#) It should take less than a minute to complete and will remove you from the Room Selection d-list moving forward.