

Update #3 to the Higher Education Report: Recommendations for Reopening Undergraduate Colleges and Universities

Recommendations for Dormitory Bathrooms (Based upon advice from the Public Health Guidelines Subcommittee, Reopen CT)

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May 20, 2020

Bathroom usage

All Bathroom users:

- Minimize time in all shared bathrooms.
- No cell phone use in shared bathrooms.
- Personal items should not be stored in shared bathrooms.
- Toilet lids, if present, should be closed before flushing.

Multi-stall shared bathroom users:

- If toilets and showers are separated by physical barriers, all can be used.
- For sinks and open showers, 6 feet of separation should be maintained when in use.
- If there are multiple communal bathrooms available on a floor, bathrooms should be assigned by zone or other criteria, and users should only use their assigned bathroom, to limit cross contamination and assist with traffic control.
- If quarantined because of close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual, communal bathroom users should have a single-user bathroom, if possible.

Roommates/suitemates who are otherwise treated as a family unit:

- May share a common bathroom.
- Should maintain 6 foot distancing in bathrooms whenever possible.
- If quarantined because of close contact with a COVID-19 positive roommate /suitemate, they may continue to share a bathroom among themselves, but not with others.

Cleaning/Disinfecting practices

Similar to general cleaning recommendations:

- Multi-stall communal bathroom bathrooms should be fully cleaned/disinfected by housekeeping staff a minimum of once daily, using products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2. (see Hygiene rules for shared or common spaces).
- Bathrooms shared only among roommates or suitemates should be cleaned regularly by housekeeping staff.
- All bathrooms: Disinfectant wipes should be placed near sinks, shower stalls and toilets.
 - Sinks: Users should wipe sink basin/faucet handles and soap dispensers following use.
 - Showers: Users should wipe the basin of the tub/shower, and faucet handles after use.
 - Toilets: Users should wipe flush handle, seat, and doors / latches of stalls after use.
- Paper towel dispensers are preferred. No air hand dryers.
- Hands-free garbage bins are preferred.

Ventilation:

- Confirm that the bathroom has an exhaust system that meets applicable building codes. Ensure that the exhaust system is working properly and that the bathroom is under negative pressure.
- If the bathroom is not required to have an exhaust system, open windows where and when possible.

Implementation:

- Encourage involvement of students in designing the specific plan for their living arrangement that meets above requirements.
- Implementation will require teamwork with students, cleaning staff, and others.
- Use signage to educate and remind users of these guidelines.

- Provide an anonymous system for students to report concerns.

General bathrooms on campus

- Similar guideline, frequent cleaning. Follow CDC and AIHA guidelines (add references / links).

Brief Rationale:

- While bathrooms potentially provide greater opportunity for close contact to other students and exposure to SARS-CoV-2, duration of time spent in dorm bathrooms is relatively limited compared to time spent with roommates, suitemates and classmates.