



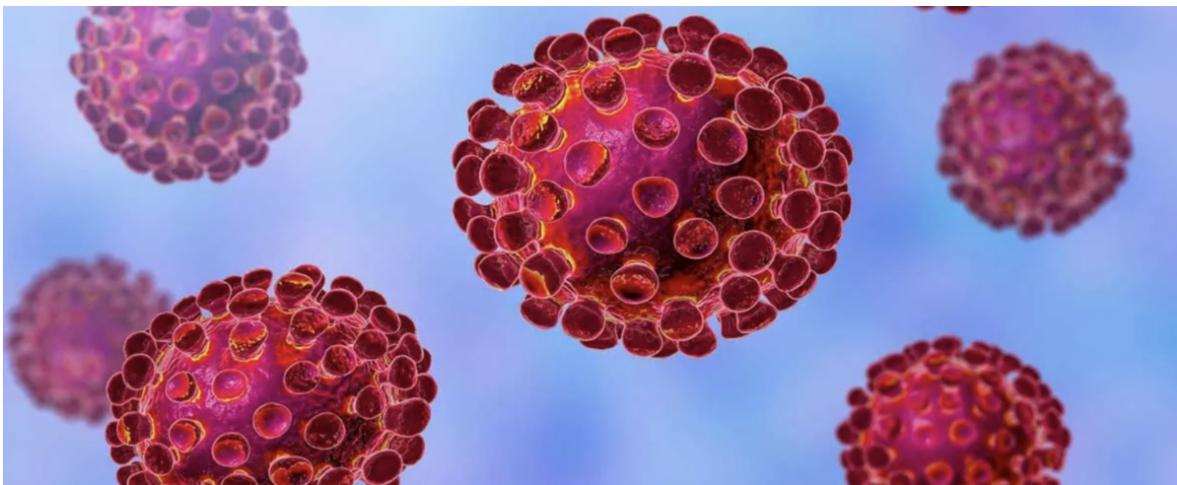
# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

From the Office for Off-Campus Living

March 2020

We are living in surreal times right now. Given the major changes that are happening among school and everything else, focus on protecting the health and safety for yourself and those around you. Since there may be a barrier between you and the University at this point, feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions on next years housing search, your rental property while you are gone, and any concerns among this virus' impact on your off-campus living. We are all working remotely and happy to connect via email, google hangout, zoom or phone with you. Our office location is closed for the time being. Be sure to check out the great list of virtual events available at the bottom of the newsletter! We're in this together friends!

**-Your Off-Campus Liaisons**



## How To Manage COVID-19 While Living Off-Campus at UMN

With the emergence of COVID-19, and the accelerating nature it is having worldwide, it is important to consider the symptoms, side-effects, and consequences this disease can have on your health. With this being said, if you are staying off-campus or near the University of Minnesota during this world wide pandemic, there are numerous resources that you can take advantage of to better inform yourself over COVID-19, and better protect your health.

For updated University information, check the [Safe Campus](#) site. [Boynton Health](#) has adjusted their services and programs with most intact for the rest of the semester, regardless of the movement to online classes. Boynton Health has also provided a [Coronavirus webpage](#) that depicts general information regarding the virus, such as University updates, what to do if you are sick, etc.. However, Boynton Health has made it clear that if you are displaying [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath, etc.) **to not enter the building**, but to call their Nurse Line at 612-625-7900 for further instruction. Being that this virus is extremely transmittable, it is important to ensure the health of those we are surrounded by, and to respect all new measures and policies imposed by local organizations, restaurants, and entities.

We have created a list of [resources specific to off-campus issues](#) related to COVID-19 for you as a student that we encourage you to check out. We are conducting outreach to property managers to discuss their response and what they are seeing out in apartment and house rental situations right now. We are doing weekly check-ins with them to share updates and keep communication flowing. We know many students are expressing interest in breaking housing contracts with the move to online learning and being encouraged to stay home right now. Property managers have expressed to us they would like to deal with each situation on a case by case basis. You should start by talking with your specific property manager if you are wanting to break your lease. We encourage you to look through your lease first to see if there is a breakage fee (often equal to two months rent) or if it prohibits breaking the lease early. It is appropriate to ask your property management to negotiate any fees or make exceptions, but keep in mind they are not obligated to do so at all. It is a legal and binding contract. Should there be a state or federal mandate on these situations in the coming weeks, they will follow those guidelines. You can also consider finding a subletter (if your lease allows it) though the number of openings will outweigh the number of individuals looking for locations right now. You can use the [Roommate Finder tool](#) or the [Housing group on Facebook](#) on the U of M network to post sublet opportunities.

We are living in surreal times right now. In order to ensure the health and safety for yourself and others, please review the [CDC's information, guidelines, and recommendations](#) to be better informed on the virus. Up until then, practice social distancing and isolate yourself until further notice. Do not hesitate to contact health professionals and instructors regarding if this disease may be impacting you and your work, and feel free to reach out to [UMN Off-Campus Living](#) if this virus is seemingly impacting your housing search or living off-campus.

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[Moving Out? Here's A Checklist To Help...](#)

Some of you will be moving out of your first college apartment at the end of this month. Some of you may be bittersweet about leaving your old apartment behind whereas some of you are most definitely ready for a change. What's most important is that you check out of your old apartment with it looking as clean as possible, so that you can all but guarantee you will receive that glorious security deposit back. Here are some things you should do 100% when you are exiting your apartment. **Of course, you should follow any additional or replacement guidelines your landlord gives you over our recommendations; this is not legal advice, we are not lawyers, and these are just a set of a few base level things that might help your chances.**

**Make sure your landlord has your new contact information.** Okay, this one might seem obvious, but you totally want to make sure your landlord has an address so that they have a mailing destination for your security deposit. Students who are moving out at the end of the month should provide their old landlord with their next rental or home address. Students who have leases ending toward the middle of August, however, may wish to give their old landlord their permanent address for the security deposit, as to ensure it does not arrive at their new renting location prior to September 1st. Once your landlord has your forwarding address and your key, they have 3 weeks to send you back the deposit with an explanation of anything held back. If you disagree with anything they didn't return, don't cash the check, instead chat with [Student Legal Service](#) first.

**Look for issues with the walls.** Students like to hang all sorts of stuff up in these rooms. Oftentimes, however, the bonding agents used can tear paint of the walls or leave behind a strange, sticky residue. You are going to want to make sure that residue is gone and you should contact your landlord if any paint is missing and see what they say. You are allowed to leave it in the condition you found upon move in minus wear and tear. Small scuffs or paint chips are usually considered wear and tear but larger issues may be a concern. Also, check for holes in your walls. Again, small nail holes should be wear and tear, but large holes should be discussed.

**Scrub Your Kitchen.** Your kitchen is probably a little gross after using it for an entire year. That's okay for right now, but it's important that you leave your kitchen in tip-top shape when you move out. Make sure your refrigerator, oven, and (if provided for you) microwave look as if they are new. Check every nook & cranny for crumbs. Also - if you have non-perishables left over in your cupboards check the expiration dates - if they will last, throw it in a box and store it with the rest of your stuff; this way, you'll have a head start on groceries and you'll avoid wasting any food.

**The Worst Part: The Bathroom.** Cleaning your bathroom is never fun, but it's still something you just gotta do. The goal is to make your bathroom look like it hasn't been used for the last twelve months. Yes, this means even cleaning the toilet. If you share a bathroom with a roommate or two, we recommend drawing straws for who gets this wonderful opportunity.

Once again, this is by no means a conclusive list - check in with your landlords to find out exactly what they want you to do when you move out.

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Census  
2020

## CENSUS - fill it out with roommates online now!

We know the census is not the top thing on your mind right now, but please make time to do it in the next few weeks. You should still report yourself and your roommates for where you've been paying rent off-campus for the spring semester (not where you are actually sleeping on April 1 with the COVID-19 situation). We need an accurate count of how our community normally looks, per the Census.gov [guidelines for colleges and universities](#). Students who have been living in residence halls for spring semester will get counted there by Housing & Residence Life staff as it's considered group quarters. Off-Campus students

will need to report themselves (and their roommates) online.

Go to our [census info](#) page for background and instructions. We recommend you look at what questions will be asked in advance via the [sample census](#), and have all roommates provide their info to one point person. The point person can [go online](#) and fill out the info for the whole unit. It should take about 10 minutes if you have all the info upfront from your roommates. Take a screen shot of your confirmation that your count was submitted. We'll be rewarding students for getting counted and asking you to share on social media to get entered for prizes. Follow [@offcampusgopher](#) on social media to learn more!

Tell your friends and neighbors to fill out the 2020 Census today at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov).

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## OCL Cookbook: Green Bean Mushroom Stir Fry

### Ingredients:

Mushrooms, Green beans, Sambal Oelek Chili Paste, Salt, Oil

### Step 1:

Cut the green bean ends off.

### Step 2:

Add a little oil to the pan, cook the green beans for about 5 minutes on medium high heat.

### Step 3:

Add mushrooms (cut up or whole), cook for about 5 minutes with the green beans.

### Step 4:

Add the chili paste.

Add the salt (Be a bit careful because the chili paste has some salt in it!).

Then thoroughly stir the flavor around through the entire dish.

### Step 5:

Plate it, eat it, enjoy it!

**The More Ya Know Know:** We put the green beans in before the mushrooms because they take longer to cook!

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	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Burglary From Motor Vehicle	Homicide	Motor Vehicle Theft	Robbery	Sexual Assault	Theft
Cedar-Riverside	1	0	6	0	8	2	0	12
Marcy-Holmes	5	6	3	0	5	1	2	20
Prospect Park	0	4	10	0	5	0	2	18
SE Como	0	4	3	1	3	0	1	8

## GopherWatch Monthly Safety Report: February

Prepared by the Office of Off-Campus Living and neighborhood partners.

### Crime Highlights:

- A homicide occurred near the 900 block of 15th Ave SE on Saturday, February 15th at approximately 5:20AM in the Southeast Como Neighborhood.
  - The victim was pronounced dead after being transported to Hennepin County Medical Center.
  - The victim died of a stab wound.
  - The Minneapolis Police Department made an arrest. The suspect was known to the victim and was charged with second-degree unintentional homicide.
- An attempted abduction occurred near the intersection of 10th Avenue SE and 6th Street SE on Tuesday, February 18th in the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood.
  - The suspect attempted to push the victim into a vehicle.
  - The victim was able to break free and run away.
  - The suspect was described as a male with gray facial hair.
  - The suspect is known to be involved with at least two other active cases involving similar circumstances.
  - The Minneapolis Police Department is investigating.
  - Anyone with information on these crimes should call CrimeStoppers of Minnesota at 1-800-222-TIPS.

### Safety Notes:

- A police advisory has been issued for the off-campus community following two related attempted abductions.
  - Be aware of your surroundings, especially when walking.
  - Walk in groups or use UMN Safewalk Service (612-624-9255).
  - Report suspicious activity to 911, this includes people hiding in bushes, people following you, or people attempting to enter your vehicle.

### Renting

If you are still looking for fall 2020 housing, you are not alone. Know that you do not need to feel rushed while checking out apts or houses. YOU HAVE TIME TO SIGN!

There are plenty of places to rent within 1/2 a mile to a mile of campus and new complexes get added each year recently. Locations closest to campus will fill first, but those are also the most expensive. Keep your budget in mind and don't sign on for more than you can actually afford because you feel rushed.

In particular, we'd like to remind students

### Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

How volunteering works may change in the coming weeks due to the social distancing guidelines currently in place. We will be identifying things you can do remotely to help your community, no matter where you are and listing those on our site soon. We will still be posting opportunities for later in summer and for fall semester for sure. Use the [request form](#) to contact us for these or other local opportunities to volunteer! Have an idea? Let us know, we are happy to share. Look for a social media drive to win prizes for reporting yourself on the census in the coming weeks too!

looking for housing to be careful & vigilant in their housing search. It is crucial to do your research about [the property & the landlord prior](#) to signing your lease. And as always, feel free to check out our [other resources](#) on our website as well.

### Suggestions?

Have you ever had an idea of a way the Neighborhood Liaisons could help improve the community? Please reach out to us! We are always looking for opportunities to improve the area we live in. Contact us by email, and a liaison will be in contact with you ASAP!

### Social Media

That's right! If the newsletter is not for you, give us a follow on our 5-star rated Facebook page, our beautifully photographed Instagram page, or our newly revamped Twitter page! They offer frequent updates for those living off-campus to stay noticed on upcoming events for students.

Facebook: [@offcampusgopher](#)

Instagram: [@offcampusgopher](#)

Twitter: [@OffCampusGopher](#)

OCL now has a YouTube page, where all original content will be published! Check below for videos on local housing, safety, and more!

YouTube: [UMN Off-Campus Living](#)

### Questions about your lease or landlord?

If you're a U of M student, be sure to get your potential lease looked at by Student Legal Services (SLS) before signing. They offer remote appointments currently. They can point out any red flags and help you in making your choice. If you live off-campus and are having issues with repairs and your landlord is unresponsive, you should call 311. You can also work with SLS on those issues as well. Thinking you need to sublet your spot this summer? Check your lease and talk to SLS if your lease is not clear about subletting.

[Make an appointment](#)

### Check Out These Virtual Events Since In-Person Events Are Cancelled

Virtual events are the only kind we can find right now. So aside from hosting a dance party in your own living room or kitchen, check out some of these options for a distraction right now. These opportunities sourced from our friends in [Student Unions & Activities](#). Check back on their page for additional ideas and other activities to stay active!

- [Virtual Field Trips](#)
- [Virtual Museum Tours](#)
- [Monterey Bay Aquarium Otter Cam](#)
- List of [virtual music performances](#)
  - Also a list of [free classical music performances](#)
  - [This Week's Local Live Streams \(from City Pages\)](#)
- [Broadway shows](#) to watch from home
- [10 historic homes \(including Buckingham Palace\)](#) to virtually tour

**Our favorite from their list is the idea to connect with your roommates and friends from a distance with a [Netflix Party!](#)**

### OCL Mission:

Off-Campus Living empowers students to build connections on and off campus, and live with intent.

### OCL Goals:

- Off-Campus students will make meaningful connections to other students, neighbors and the community.
- Off-Campus Living will provide educational and programmatic opportunities that promote student involvement, academic success, retention and positive community engagement.
- Off-Campus Living will collaborate with other university departments and local neighborhoods and towns to raise awareness of the specific needs and concerns of off-

campus and commuter students.

Won't you be our neighbor?



@OffCampusGopher