For Immediate Release

MCHD provides guidance for WVU students during move-in and move-out

MORGANTOWN, WV (April 30, 2020) — Monongalia County Health Department has corroborated with West Virginia University, Monongalia County officials and landlords and City of Morgantown officials in order to minimize spread of COVID-19 as students embark on moving in and moving out of off-campus dormitories and apartments.

“Monongalia County continues to experience increasing numbers of people diagnosed with COVID-19, as community-acquired illness is common,” said Dr. Lee B. Smith, MCHD executive director and county health officer. “Therefore, we want to make sure that this transitional period is as safe as possible as students return from other counties and states to move out.”

As of April 30, Monongalia County was at 104 cases of COVID-19. Only three other counties of West Virginia’s 55 counties have more cases than Monongalia County.

Move in and move out takes place from Friday, May 1 to May 17, and for families and friends there will be a 24-hour window in Morgantown.

“Those who stay longer should understand that they may be subject to a 14-day quarantine,” Dr. Smith said.

Management of hotels and motels are offering special pricing during this time and have been asked to inform MCHD when travelers stay for more than one night.

Students and families may be traveling from areas with high transmission rates of COVID-19, Dr. Smith added. Any students from states such as New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida or Louisiana who remain in Morgantown for more than 24 hours should stay in their new apartment or housing and self-quarantine/self-monitor for 14 days.

“We ask that any visitor, student, family or friend who develops COVID-19 symptoms while staying or who develops them after leaving Monongalia County to inform Monongalia County Health Department by calling 304-598-5100,” Dr. Smith said.

Monongalia County Health Department
453 Van Voorhis Road
Morgantown, WV 26505
To reduce transmission of infection during the move-in & move-out period:

- Masks will be available and should be worn in public and anytime in close contact with others. Contact your landlord for availability.
- Dumpsters will be provided at six locations during this period. Here is a link to a map with those locations: [https://arcg.is/WS4yW](https://arcg.is/WS4yW)
- Drop-off donation locations for bulk items will be available at three locations, which can be found using the same link above.
- Items that cannot be placed in Dumpsters include any type of construction debris such as carpet and drywall, etc. Violators will be fined.
- People are encouraged not to enter or retrieve items from Dumpsters as they may be soiled, contain infectious material or sharp material that can cut or puncture.
- If you feel sick, stay home!

Guidelines also have been issued to students and landlords. Guidelines for students include:

- Only one tenant per apartment may move at a time.
- Tenants may only have two moving helpers. We ask that the number of helpers be limited as much as possible to minimize health risks.
- Everyone involved in moving must wear a mask in public spaces.
- Gatherings of more than five are prohibited until further notice, by order of Gov. Jim Justice.

Guidelines for landlords include:

- Create a structured time for students to move out or move in.
- Create a schedule with designated moving time blocks during the day.
  1. The number and length of time slots should meet each apartment community’s operational needs. For example, 8 a.m. – 12:00 noon and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. or 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. and 2:30 – 7:30 p.m.
  2. Larger rentals with multiple units and multiple tenants and/or roommates should focus on keeping roommates’ moving times as separated as possible during move-out.
  3. The schedule should minimize activity on each floor during each move-out time block.
  4. The schedule for multistory buildings with exterior or interior corridors needs to be carefully managed so that proper social distancing of six feet can be observed. For example, tenants from no more than two or three units should be moving out at the same time.
  5. No more than one tenant per multi-tenant apartment should be scheduled at one time. Roommates should not be in the apartment at the same time.

Morgantown is currently under a stay-at-home order for anyone not conducting essential work or essential errands.

“We want this move-out period to go as smoothly as possible to avoid an uptick of COVID-19 cases,” Dr. Smith said.

*For the most recent information on community health and wellness, visit monchd.org and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @WVMCHD.*