COVID-19 is a highly contagious flu-like illness and, although many individuals who contract the disease experience no symptoms, or only mild symptoms, some become critically ill. COVID-19’s highly contagious nature means that contact with others, or contact with surfaces that have been exposed to the virus, can lead to infection. Additionally, individuals who may have been infected with COVID-19 may be asymptomatic for a period of time, or may never become symptomatic at all. This “hidden” nature of COVID-19 makes transmission more difficult to contain. Boston University has developed plans to reduce the risk to our residential communities, but every member of the residential community must do their part.

By signing the Residence License Agreement (“Agreement”), you accepted from Boston University (the “University” or “BU”) a license to occupy the University residence assigned by the University (the “Residence”), subject to the terms of the Agreement and other policies applicable to students. Pursuant to the section of the Agreement entitled “Rules/Regulations,” you have agreed to comply with all directives, rules, and regulations which may be promulgated and established by the University, in the interests of health, safety, the proper conduct of University housing residents (“Residents”), and the orderly and efficient operation and administration of the residential system. By this Advisory, the University is notifying you that the University has established the following rules and may, as this academic year (2020–21) continues, establish further rules in an effort to reduce the risk of the spread of the 2019 novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) in the Residences.

1. **HEALTH AND SAFETY.** As always, the University will endeavor to update Residents with timely information about specific health and safety guidance important for our Residents. The University will establish specific requirements applicable to Residents, including but not limited to requirements for COVID-19 testing, symptom reporting, physical distancing, limitations on group gatherings, wearing a face covering, contact tracing, disinfection protocols, limitations and restrictions on guests within residence halls, and quarantine / isolation requirements. These requirements will be posted at Back2BU and may be updated as needed by the University. Adherence to health and safety requirements applies to all Residents and extends to all aspects of residential life, including bedrooms, bathrooms, and common spaces. While the University is working to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, it cannot guarantee that the requirements it puts in place will entirely prevent the spread of COVID-19 among students, faculty, and staff. Every Resident will have a role to play in reducing risk for themselves and others in the community.

2. **QUARANTINE / ISOLATION / SEPARATION.** At any time, the University may request or require a Resident to leave their assigned Residence due to COVID-19 or other public health emergency, and failure to do so may subject a Resident to emergency removal from their assigned Residence. Not all Residence rooms or halls are appropriate for self-quarantine or self-isolation, for example, and in those situations where a Resident is recommended to
self-quarantine or self-isolate, other Residents may not be permitted to continue residing in their assigned Residence and will be provided alternative housing arrangements as needed. Removal from a Residence by the University to isolate or quarantine does not constitute a termination of a Resident’s Agreement.

3. **DE-DENSIFYING EFFORTS.** Residents must comply with any de-densifying efforts on campus due to COVID-19 or other public health emergency, including, but not limited to, the relocation of all or some Residents to alternative housing. Relocation by the University does not constitute a termination of a Resident’s Agreement.

4. **HOUSEHOLDS.** Residents will be assigned to “households” within Residences. The University will continue to implement and modify its cleaning protocols to address COVID-19 or other public health emergency in the interest of minimizing the spread of disease. Depending on the style of Residence, Residents will be required to exercise personal control of sanitation as needed and will participate in keeping shared areas like bathrooms and kitchens clean, according to cleaning protocols provided by the University. Residents in households will also be asked to participate in the scheduling of daily hygiene visits in shared or common bathrooms within the Residences.

5. **TERMINATION.** Upon reasonable notice, the University reserves the right to terminate the Agreement at its discretion due to public health emergency needs, including COVID-19. In the event the University terminates the Agreement due to public health concerns, the University will offer credits for housing costs as appropriate and based on information available at that time.

6. **DINING SERVICES.** Dining service, including where and how it will be offered to Residents, is subject to the discretion of the University and is subject to modification to address public health concerns. There may be limits to the occupancy of dining halls, limits to the amount of time students may reside within dining halls, or other operational adjustments needed to address health and safety concerns. In the event the University terminates the Agreement due to public health concerns, the University will offer credits for meal plan costs as appropriate and based on information available at that time.

7. **STUDENT TERMINATION OF SPRING 2021-ONLY AGREEMENT.** If you are a new first-year or transfer student, or a continuing student who canceled their fall 2020 semester Resident License Agreement and want to live on campus for the 2021 spring semester, we welcome and invite you to complete a spring 2021-only housing application in the My Housing Portal. Although we believe that living on campus helps students be fully engaged in the BU experience, the University has waived the first-year residency requirement for new students who are only participating remotely from their off-campus home during spring 2021. New students who terminate their RLA by December 10, 2020, and who paid a Housing Guarantee Payment (HGP) of $600, will receive a credit of $600 applied to their student account. The final deadline for new first-year, transfer, and continuing students (who canceled their fall 2020 RLA) to cancel their spring-only 2021 Agreement is Friday, January 8, 2021.