

Petrel Pod Policy

On September 22, 2020 our 213 residents on campus will move from the Petrel Pause to the introduction of Petrel Pods. Today 9/21/20, we are at zero active cases and the Petrel Pause has been successful. We can now move to a new phase with understanding that any presence of the virus in our community or lack of compliance with campus policies and expectations may result in the suspension of pods and return to stricter measures for safety.

Petrel Pods are groups of residents who agree to keep each other safe so they can have positive social experience together safely. Pods initially are composed of 2 to 6 total residents who limit physical contact to their group/pod members. A resident student may be a member of only one pod.

Petrel Pods are permitted during the Fall 2020 semester as long as the campus case rate of COVID-19 stays below 2%. Only residential Oglethorpe students may be a part of pods.

All members of the Pod must adhere to all provisions in the COVID-19 handbook and Petrel Pledge <https://COVID-1919.oglethorpe.edu/petrel-pledge/>. Lack of compliance or infractions by any member of the Pod will result in the pod being suspended or closed.

As Petrel Pods are formed, students are advised that risk of COVID-19 is ever present. Social distancing, hand washing protocols and mask wearing are still essential to protect you and the community.

Pod registration/compliance:

All Pods should do the following items.

1. Register via this link: <https://oglethorpe.wufoo.com/forms/zho5swp11lhusw/>
2. Agree to standards outlined in the COVID-19 conversation document.
3. Agree to maintain compliance with the health surveillance app, which will go to only one morning screening starting 9/22/20.
4. Understand that when any member of the pod is exposed or has symptoms that all members will quarantine and follow instructions
5. Add each member of the pod to their circle of care on the Lifeguard app.
6. Participate in health requirements from the university such as testing, flu shots and other prevention measures. Information about flu shots will be distributed in October.

Pods are initially a maximum of six (6) total residents. While socializing together, Pod members are encouraged to spend time together outdoors, and socially distant as much as possible. Time and distance are key factors in exposure to the virus. Members of a pod can eat together (we recommend eating outdoors as much as the weather permits) and spend time together more frequently. Residential spaces are restricted (see below). If members cannot socially distance (e.g. meeting indoors, driving in a car together)- then all Pod member should wear masks.

Residence Hall Rooms & Pods

- Suitemates are not required to be in the same Pod.

- If suitemates are not in the same pod, then the common space of the suite is off limits to either pod, and any contact between suitemates is to be treated the same as anyone outside the pod. Strict masking, distancing, and cleaning of shared surfaces after use are all required for suitemates that are not in the same Petrel Pod.
- No more than two (2) pod members (including resident of room) are allowed in any residence hall room at any given time. This includes bedrooms, and common rooms.
 - Off-campus guests are still restricted at this time. No off-campus guests are allowed on-campus, or in the residence halls.

On campus Pods may gather in the follow spaces while observing capacity limits. All capacity limits are posted by signage outside of the room/area.

Building	Area
Bowden Magbee	Front Lobby
	2nd Floor Common Room
	3rd Floor Common Room
	4th Floor common room
Jobe Hansen	1st Floor Lobby
	4th Floor common room
Dempsey	1st Floor Common Room
	2nd Floor Common Room *
	3rd Floor Common Room *
	4th Floor Common Room *
Traer	1st Floor Lounge
	2nd Floor Lounge
	3rd Floor Lounge
	Courtyard
Res Quad	Basketball Court
Jobe Hansen	Outdoor Breezeway
TLCC	Fire Pit
	1st Floor Atrium
	Grenwald Seating Area *
	Group Study Room 130 *
	Starbucks café area
	Gameroom
	Under Stairs seating

*** Please Note: Those marked with an * are areas that have capacities smaller than the maximum pod size ***

Residents are advised to go only to the following off-campus locations:

- Eating establishments with to-go or outdoor dining. Indoor dining is not recommended.
- Food and supply shopping, as long as students wear a mask, and the retailer is enforcing/requiring all customers/employees to wear a mask.

- Pods can travel together with masks in cars. Residence Life does not recommend using UBER/LYFT or other forms of mass transit.

These off-campus locations are not allowed:

- Venues, stores, gyms (LA Fitness) where masks are not mandatory/required.
- Other college campus events/parties/locations- especially residence halls or Greek houses.
- No social venues, such as bars or clubs, are allowed.

If a student would like to attend work off-campus, please follow the following guidance:

- For credit internships are reviewed with the Career Development Director.
- Other off campus employment/volunteer hours must be in line with acceptable off campus places noted above.
- If you are in need of additional PPE for internships or jobs, please email residence@oglethorpe.edu

Petrel Pod COVID-19 Conversation Guide

We all have a role to play in making sure our community is as safe as possible and abiding by the petrel pledge and COVID-19 Handbook (during these unprecedented times) to help reduce community spread.

As Petrel Pod members, please take time to review and agree upon the following COVID-19 considerations.

Petrel Pod Agreements:

- We agree to maintain (6ft/2m) physical distancing with no physical contact (e.g., no shaking hands, high fives).
- We agree to practice prevention hygiene, such as frequent and proper hand washing techniques.
- We agree to wear a mask in all common areas, and in areas where 6ft cannot be maintained.
- We agree to abide by the on and off-campus restrictions outlined in the Petrel Pod policy.
- We agree to monitor our symptoms and health daily through the Oglethorpe Screening Program on the Lifeguard Mobile app.
- We agree not to share dishes, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with anyone else.
- We agree that if a common area is used, such as a restroom or kitchenette, then we will wipe down/sanitize common surfaces after each use.
- We will let each other know when we are feeling unwell so we keep our distance.
- We have discussed off campus obligations and employment with each other and will alert the Pod and get approval if anything changes as what we do exposes all of us.
- We will let each other know when we are feeling unwell so we keep our distance and seek support from the university's case management team via healthinfo@oglethorpe.edu

- We will let each other know if our commute or other responsibilities/activities put us in close contact with others.
- We agree to notify each other if we have symptoms, and/or receives a positive test for coronavirus, is exposed, or has had contact with someone who has tested positive, so that appropriate precautions can be taken- including restrictions on the Pod and its members.

Personal Promises:

- I will take steps when outside of my room to minimize my exposure.
- I will wash my hands regularly and thoroughly, according to CDC guidelines.
- I will wear a mask over my nose and mouth and know how to properly put on, wear, and taking off a face mask.
- I will try not to touch my face or eyes with my hands.
- I will cover my coughs and sneezes with a tissue or my elbow.
- I will take my temperature if feeling ill or like I have a fever. If it is elevated (100 Fahrenheit or more), or if you have other symptoms or signs of the coronavirus, I agree to stay home.

COVID-19 Conversation Questions

Ask yourself and your Petrel Pod members some of these questions so you are on the same page about COVID-19.

- Is COVID-19 spreading in my community?
- What are the local orders in my community?
- How will we practice social distancing in common areas?
- Will my activity put me in close contact with others?
- Am I at risk for severe illness?
- Do I practice everyday preventive actions?
- Will I have to share any items, equipment, or tools with other people?
- When do you feel the need to wear a mask?
- What are your handwashing tendencies?
- Do you have a cleaning routine for grocery items? If so, what is your process?
- What are your shopping habits and frequency?
- How seriously are you taking social distancing?
- What are your personal thoughts on the COVID-19 situation?
- Are you taking additional precautions to stop the spread of COVID-19?
- Have you been working remotely or in-person in an essential capacity?
- Has your work schedule been altered? What was it prior and what is it now?
- How have you spent your time during the pandemic?
- Do I know what to do if I get sick?
- How will we communicate if one of us becomes symptomatic or has known exposure to someone who is tested positive for COVID-19?
- If asked, are you willing to isolate?

Be prepared and stay safe

Know the [steps to help prevent the spread](#) of COVID-19 if you are sick.

If you decide to engage in public activities, Continue to protect yourself by [practicing everyday preventive actions](#), like monitoring yourself for symptoms, not touching your face with unwashed hands, washing your hands often, [social distancing](#), [disinfecting surfaces](#), wearing [masks](#), and staying home if you are sick.

Get more tips to keep you and others safe when you venture out

- [Running Essential Errands](#)
- [Doctor Visits and Getting Medicines](#)
- [Personal and Social Activities](#)