

# GCHC Guide for Navigating COVID-19

[DISCLAIMER] All of the information below was validated with representatives of Princeton University's Graduate School and Housing and Real Estate Services. This guide is up to date as of 08/28/2020. Though we will do our best to update this guide in a timely manner as circumstances change, we cannot guarantee that it is always accurate. If you have other questions please reach out to [gchouse@princeton.edu](mailto:gchouse@princeton.edu)

## Introduction

This guide is supposed to help you have the best time at the GC given the complicated current situation. It starts by discussing the inside of your GC room. What type of appliances you can or cannot have to help you go through these tough times. Then we detail which of the GC facilities are currently closed/operating at different hours, to help you navigate through the GC. At last, it compiles information on recreational activities outside of the GC, around the Princeton area. It discusses the free shuttle system TigerTransit, as well as where to go to do outdoor gatherings, play sports, and have some outdoor fun!

## Part 1. Inside your GC room

This part describes what you are allowed to, or not allowed to, have in your GC room. We first discuss and suggest ways to cool off the temperature in your GC room. We then discuss what cooking/heat-producing appliances you are allowed to have in your room. Lastly, we direct you to the original sources of this summary, where you can find more detailed information about this topic.

Before proceeding further, we would like to remind you that any type of electrical appliance you might have in your room must be [U/L listed](#).

Unfortunately, air conditioners are not permitted. We understand that until Fall kicks in, the weather can be quite hot, and we are constantly trying to figure out ways to make your stay in your room as comfortable as possible. As of now, we highly recommend the purchase of fans, and would like to point out the existence of [evaporation cooling fans](#). For those of you that just arrived and would like to purchase a fan as soon as possible, the Princeton University Store at University Place (around 10 minutes walking distance from the GC) sells it.

Before the pandemic, graduate students could rent microfridges (a single unit that bundles a refrigerator, a freezer and a microwave) from the Princeton Student Agency. However, the PSA is run by undergraduates, and they will be not operative this Fall semester. The Housing and Real Estate Services are discussing the possibility of allowing graduate students to purchase their own microfridge, as long as it is one of the [permitted units](#). However, no official guidance on this is available at this time. **You are permitted to have one regular minifridge in your room.**

Below you can find a list of heat-producing appliances you are authorized to have in your room:

- Miscellaneous appliances (irons, electric blankets, hair dryers, hair curlers, clothes steamers)
- Tea kettles
- Hot-air popcorn poppers
- Coffee/Espresso/Cappuccino makers
- Iced tea makers
- Cocoa-latte hot drink maker
- Milk frother
- Water dispensers hot/cold

Also, here is a list of heat-producing appliances you unfortunately are not allowed to have in your room:

- Microwaves
- Rice cookers
- Toasters
- Toaster ovens
- Crock-pot/Instant pot/Pressure cooker
- Grills (electric, charcoal, gas)
- Sandwich makers (panini press, quesadilla maker, etc.)
- Electric frypans and griddles
- Portable heaters
- Food steamers
- Deep fryers (or air fryers)
- Hot plates
- Waffle makers
- Personal air conditioners

For more information on the can's and cannot's of your room, please visit <https://hres.princeton.edu/policies/residential-living/dormitory-annex-regulations> and <https://hres.princeton.edu/policies/fire-safety-policies>, where you can find a comprehensive description of all the regulations with respect to your dormitories.

## Part 2. GC Facilities

We understand that times are tough, and we would like to better help you keep track of what facilities in the GC are operating. As per University guidance, students should always wear a face covering when inside the GC at any time, except when they are in their own living spaces.

Unfortunately, all common spaces at the GC, including the DBar lounge, Van Dyke Library, Music Room, TV Rooms, Coffee House and Common Rooms are currently closed. Aside from the plethora of streaming services available (Netflix, Hulu, etc.), you can also watch local TV through the non-profit service [Locast](#).

The common kitchen areas and laundry rooms are currently open, but anyone using these spaces must always wear a face covering and maintain social distancing. Unfortunately, the kitchens may close in the near future, as Housing is making an assessment of spaces following University regulations. Information on which/how dining halls will be open can be found at: <https://dining.princeton.edu/meal-plans/faqs>

Aside from this, residents are encouraged to spend time together outdoors. No face coverings are needed if residents can keep 6 feet (2 meters) apart from each other. If residents are outdoors and they cannot maintain social distancing, they should wear a face covering.

### **Part 3. Outside of the GC**

First and foremost, the TigerTransit is still functioning! The Princeton University's TigerTransit shuttle system is a free transportation system that takes you both around campus, as well as to nearby malls. Importantly, in accordance with NJ Governor Executive Orders for transit services and Princeton's COVID-19 campus policies, all passengers are required to wear a face covering unless they cannot for medical reasons and maintain social distancing as much as possible. For further information on the different lines offered, please visit:

<https://transportation.princeton.edu/options/tigertransit>

Before entering our list of suggestions for things to do outside of the GC, you should check out the Campus REC website <https://campusrec.princeton.edu/Fall2020> for a summary of what will be going on in terms of recreational activities this Fall semester (including virtual group fitness classes <https://campusrec.princeton.edu/fitness-wellness/group-fitness>).

Now let us write down our suggestions. Some of them coincide with what you could find in the Campus REC website, but we will still keep them as suggestions nevertheless! First, the tennis courts at the Lenz Tennis Center are currently open. They are weather dependent and first come first serve, so you should make your plans accordingly. Second, for those of you who like to run, you can do so around the university, by the track and field stadium (as of now it is open), or by the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park Trail. The canal is very beautiful, and it is long enough for those of you that fancy biking long distances as well! Third, the Princeton Community Park is a nice place you could go for a walk, shoot some hoops, or just sit down and have a nice time. Lastly, for those that are more on the adventure side of things, here you can find a very nice compilation of hikes and trails around Princeton, put up by the alumni William Atkinson '18:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yVYt3xle2SKGvkcNZCGF7pNj\\_0mpPEqA18EnCVy-gdM/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yVYt3xle2SKGvkcNZCGF7pNj_0mpPEqA18EnCVy-gdM/edit?usp=sharing)