**Date: 23 October 2020**

**Closing residence halls, except for students who receive an exemption**

Student halls will not be continuing to house all students amid a rapid outbreak. It was a difficult decision to close housing but outbreak is rapid, and halls have no proper room or may start running out of room to quarantine and isolate all who may need it.

Students who are granted exemptions:

* students who have no other place else to go;
* international students and visiting staff who cannot return home;
* student families.

We hoped and strived to keep residence halls open and safe to best serve our students. However, the rapid spread and increasing rate of positive cases have made our current situation untenable. Therefore, residence halls need to reduce the number of students as of Monday 26 October 2020, and we pledge all students to act responsibly.

Halls are closing for one week, with possible extension for another week. We will be closely monitoring the numbers and will be reopening student halls as soon as it is safe to do so.