



July 22, 2020

Mr. Dion Irish, Commissioner
Inspectional Services Department
1010 Massachusetts Avenue
Boston, MA 02118

Re: **Guidance for Permitting Off-campus Spaces for Temporary Institutional Uses**
Boston University

Dear Commissioner Irish:

This letter serves as a recommendation to approve the temporary institutional uses for Boston University, as described herein, in accordance with the interdepartmental guidance (the “Guidance”) towards permitting non-institutional spaces to be used for the purposes of institutional residential de-densification, issued by the City of Boston on July 9, 2020, and in accordance with the Boston Public Health Commission directive supporting this aim, issued June 24, 2020.

Boston University (the “University”) submitted an application (the “Application”) on July 20, 2020, detailing its plans for temporary occupancy of one Boston property. The property is located at 1047 Commonwealth Avenue in the Allston/Brighton Neighborhood Zoning District. The University will occupy 179 beds. Each apartment unit will be occupied by one student, and each unit has a private, in-unit bathroom, furthering the goals of de-densification and social distancing within the on-campus residential setting. All units will be used as quarantine housing – for those students who may have been exposed to COVID-19 and need to separate from others for a discrete period of time to see if they develop symptoms or become sick. All units contain private kitchen facilities and the University’s Dining Services will provide regular deliveries of prepared meals. All students will be required to wear face coverings anytime they are outside of their individual rooms. The University has provided sufficient detail on cleaning and sanitation protocol for these units in between individual student occupancy. The building is within walking distance of the University’s Charles River Campus, and it is also accessible by the Green Line of the MBTA and the University-run shuttle service.

The University has also provided sufficient detail on scheduling of move-in/move-out procedures across the campus in compliance with public health recommendations on limiting the spread of COVID-19, as well as ongoing testing, tracing, and isolation protocols for all on-campus students, including those in traditional Boston University dorms as well as those occupying the aforementioned property. The University will staff the property with 24/7 security and manage the building as part of its overall residence life program. Finally, this temporary residential spaces will be subject to the University’s strict alcohol use policies, as is typical across University-provided housing. The University intends to occupy the building beginning on August 1, 2020 for potential early arrival of select students, with further move-in dates extending between August 15-31.

Given the above, BPDA Staff deems the University's Application for occupying this space in compliance with the Guidance and the Boston Public Health Commission's directive. BPDA Staff recommends that you permit the change of use for the proposed facility for a period of six months, beginning August 1, 2020, with the option for the University to renew for a similar period should that be deemed necessary and in accordance with the Guidance at that time, as well as in accordance with up-to-date public health recommendations. If you have any further questions or require additional information, please contact Edward Carmody, Institutional Planner & Project Manager, at 617.918.4422.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Polhemus', is displayed on a light blue rectangular background.

Teresa Polhemus, Acting Director