

COVID-19's Impact on Roommate Relationships

Introduction to Survey

There are many individuals who are living through the COVID-19 pandemic. This has caused a lot of relationships to shift. Specifically to students who are currently living on a university campus.

This brought up the question “How have the new rules and regulations due to COVID-19 affected conflict and relationships between college roommates?”

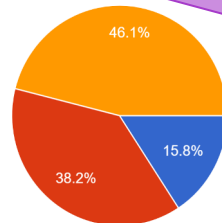
Time Spent With Roommates

- Compared responses to two questions asking on a scale of 1-4 how much time (defined as 30 minutes or more) participants spent with their roommates before and during Fall semester
- Data indicate students are spending more time together
- **65%** of participants responded with 3 or 4 (spending time with roommates almost or every day) before Fall semester,
- **75%** responded with 3 or 4 during Fall semester.

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When asked “Has COVID-19 been something that directly causes conflict or tension between you and your roommates?” most participants responded yes or sometimes. This indicates that college roommate relationships face more conflict and tension than normal due to COVID-19.



- Yes
- Sometimes
- No

Common Themes

Upon examining the responses to our survey question asking, “**please describe examples of conflict and/or tension you have experienced with your roommates during the Fall 2020 semester**”, we

noticed a few themes:

- First, a lot of conflict stems from *personal boundaries*. Specifically, every individual has a different level of safety and concern regarding COVID-19, and respecting each other’s boundaries has become difficult.
- Second, *lack of communication* creates tension in the household at UD. Specifically, not telling your roommate you have been exposed to COVID-19 is dangerous and reckless.