

University to Keep Over \$400K in Tuition After Dismissing Students for Not Social Distancing

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Eleven first-year students at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts were recently dismissed for violating social distancing rules, and will not receive a refund on their \$36,500-semester tuition for the study abroad program. The students were found at the Westin Hotel, where they were housed due to the pandemic, without face masks and flouting social distancing protocols. The students and their parents were notified they must vacate the Westin within 24 hours. Northeastern University will keep the \$401,500 tuition money. Before leaving, the students are being required to undergo COVID-19 testing at Northeastern. Anyone testing positive will be moved into special housing at the university until they recover.

Northeastern University announced Friday that 11 first-year students have been dismissed after they were found gathered in a room at the Westin Hotel in Boston earlier this week in violation of university and public health protocols aimed at preventing the spread of the coronavirus.

“Northeastern and its community of students, faculty, and staff take violations of health and safety protocols very seriously,” said Madeleine Estabrook, senior vice

chancellor for student affairs at Northeastern. "Cooperation and compliance with public health guidelines is absolutely essential. Those people who do not follow the guidelines – including wearing masks, avoiding parties and other gatherings, practicing healthy distancing, washing your hands, and getting tested – are putting everyone else at risk."

The students and their parents were notified Friday they must vacate the Westin within 24 hours. Any payments they have already made are not refundable.

All of the students have the right to contest their dismissal at a hearing, the university said.

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