



For Immediate Release

Statement on the Temporary Closing of Halcyon Hall

Takoma Park, MD. (Friday, October 5, 2018)—Consistent with our priority concern for student safety and comfort, and given the notably rainy conditions in the D.C. area this Summer and Fall, Washington Adventist University recently had Halcyon Hall, the women’s residence, tested for mildew and mold by a board certified industrial hygienist.

The testing confirmed the presence of allergenic, though no lethal forms of mold in several rooms. The good news is that the dormitory tested negative for *Stachybotrys/Memnoiella*, the more dangerous, so-called “black mold” most commonly linked to illness.

Last Friday, September 28, taking immediate action on the industrial hygienist’s recommendation, we made the difficult decision to evacuate and close Halcyon Hall in order to ensure student safety, and facilitate remediation of the situation.

The women’s residence is now temporarily closed. Remediation work formally commenced on Tuesday, October 2. Halcyon Hall residents have relocated to a nearby hotel, and WAU has made arrangements for shuttle transportation, expanded food service, and is working to minimize interruption to teaching and learning during this Fall semester. We anticipate completion of Halcyon Hall work in approximately 2-4 weeks.

“We have no higher priority than the safety and security of the students entrusted to us,” WAU President Weymouth Spence affirmed. “In accordance with my commitment to our students’ success and well-being, I have launched a series of on-site listening sessions for the ladies of Halcyon to answer any additional questions,” Dr. Spence added.

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Washington Adventist University is Montgomery County's only four-year private college. Part of the Seventh-day Adventist system of higher education, Washington Adventist University has been educating college students since 1904 on a 19-acre campus in suburban Takoma Park, close to the nation's capital. Approximately 1,100 students of all faiths participate in the university's eight graduate and 42 undergraduate programs. The 2018 edition of U.S. News & World Report ranked Washington Adventist University among the best regional colleges in the north.

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