

THINKING AHEAD...

TO DELIVER  
*peace of mind*

## CONSIDERATION FOR FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES

### HOSTING EVENTS DURING COVID-19

Organizations can help protect members, guests and employees and slow the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). As such, fraternities and sororities can determine, in collaboration with [state and local health officials](#), institutions of higher education and the national/international organization whether and how to implement these considerations while adjusting to meet the unique needs and circumstances of their university and local community. Implementation should be guided by what is feasible, practical, acceptable, and tailored to the needs of each organization.

COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. Therefore, personal prevention practices and environmental prevention practices are important principles that are covered in this resource.

*"Events" is a broad term used to include meetings, recruitment/intake, events with alcohol, new member activities, etc.*

#### Before hosting events:

Be aware of **state or local regulatory agency policies** related to group gatherings to determine which type of event can be held.

Be aware of **university guidelines or policies** related to group gatherings to determine if events can be held and which type of events (meetings, socials, philanthropy events, etc.)

Be aware of **national/international organizational rules or guidelines** related to group gatherings to determine which type of events can be held (meetings, socials, philanthropy events, etc.)

Be aware of **any local housing corporation rules or guidelines** related to group gatherings to determine which type of events can be held in the facility.

If organizations are allowed to host events, this resource will assist you in creating a safe environment.

#### Designated COVID-19 Point of Contact

- Designate an officer to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. All members should know who this person is and how to contact them.



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- Officer should be aware of state and local rules and guidelines, university guidelines and policies and national/international organization rules or guidelines.

## Events and Gatherings

- Pursue virtual group events, gatherings, or meetings, if possible, and promote social distancing of at least 6 feet between people if events are held.
- Limit group size to the extent possible.
- Consider hosting the event outside.
- Complete any paperwork (event registration/notification) required by the university or organization.
- Implement the event following the risk management policy of the institution, department, or international/national organization.
- Maintain a tracking system for any events when outside guests attend.
- Encourage or require attendees to wear masks.
- Consider providing masks for attendees.
- Ensure soap and hand sanitizer are readily available.
- Consider taking the temperature of attendees before they enter.

## Promoting Behaviors that Reduce Spread

- Actively encourage members, members, employees, etc. who have been sick with COVID-19 [symptoms](#), tested positive for COVID-19, or have been potentially [exposed](#) to someone with COVID-19 (either through [community-related exposure](#) or [international travel](#)) to follow CDC guidance to [self-isolate or stay home](#).

## Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

- Recommend and reinforce [handwashing](#) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
  - If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used.
- Encourage students, faculty, and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
  - If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used.

## Cloth Face Coverings

- Recommend and reinforce use of [cloth face coverings](#) among members, guests and employees. Face coverings should be worn as feasible and are **most** essential in times when physical distancing is difficult. Individuals should be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to [wash their hands](#) frequently. Information should be provided on the [proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings](#).
  - Note: [Cloth face coverings](#) should **not** be placed on:
    - Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious
    - Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance

- [Cloth face coverings](#) are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms. [Cloth face coverings](#) are not surgical masks, respirators, or other medical personal protective equipment.

## Adequate Supplies

- Support [healthy hygiene](#) behaviors by providing adequate supplies, including soap, hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol, paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, cloth face coverings (as feasible), and no-touch/foot pedal trash cans.

## Signs and Messages

- Post [signs](#) in highly visible locations (e.g., building entrances, restrooms, dining areas) that [promote everyday protective measures](#) and describe how to [stop the spread](#) of germs (such as by [properly washing hands](#) and [properly wearing a cloth face cover](#)).
- Include messages (for example, [videos](#)) about behaviors that prevent spread of COVID-19 when communicating with members.
- Find freely available CDC print and digital resources on CDC's [communications resources](#) main page.

## Cleaning and Disinfection

- Develop a schedule for increased, routine cleaning and disinfection.
- [Clean and disinfect](#) frequently touched surfaces (e.g., door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains, grab bars, hand railings, bathroom stalls, dining hall tables) within facilities at least daily or between use as much as possible. Use of shared objects (e.g., lab equipment, computer equipment, desks) should be limited when possible, or cleaned between use.
- Ensure [safe and correct use](#) and storage of [cleaners and disinfectants](#), including storing products securely. Use products that meet [EPA disinfection criteria](#).
- Encourage members to keep their personal items (e.g., cell phones, other electronics) and personal work and living spaces clean. Encourage members to use disinfectant wipes to wipe down shared space and other shared objects and surfaces before use.
- Ensure there is adequate ventilation when using cleaning products to prevent members, guests or employees from inhaling toxic fumes.

## Ventilation

- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, for example by opening windows and doors. Do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety or health risk (e.g., risk of falling, triggering asthma symptoms).

## Water Systems

- To minimize the risk of [Legionnaires' disease](#) and other diseases associated with water, [take steps](#) to ensure that all water systems and features (e.g., sink faucets, drinking fountains, decorative fountains) are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown. Drinking fountains should be cleaned and disinfected, but encourage members, guests and employees to bring their own water to minimize use and touching of water fountains.

## Modified Layouts

- Space seating at least 6 feet apart when feasible.
- Host smaller meetings in larger rooms.
- Provide adequate distance between individuals.

## Physical Barriers and Guides

- Install physical barriers, such as sneeze guards and partitions, particularly in areas where it is difficult for individuals to remain at least 6 feet apart.
- Provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs on walls to ensure that individuals remain at least 6 feet apart in lines and at other times.

## Communal Spaces

- Close shared spaces such as dining halls, game rooms, exercise rooms, and lounges if possible; otherwise, stagger use and restrict the number of people allowed in at one time to ensure everyone can stay at least 6 feet apart, and [clean and disinfect](#) between use.
- Add physical barriers, such as plastic flexible screens, between bathroom sinks and between beds especially when they cannot be at least 6 feet apart.
- For more information on communal spaces (e.g., laundry rooms, shared bathrooms and recreation areas) follow [CDC's guidance for Shared or Congregate Housing](#).

## Food

- Provide grab-and-go options for meals. If a group dining room is typically used, if possible, serve individually plated meals (versus buffet or any self-serve stations).
- Use disposable food service items (e.g., utensils, dishes). If disposable items are not feasible or desirable, ensure that all non-disposable food service items are handled with gloves and washed with dish soap and hot water or in a dishwasher. Individuals should [wash their hands](#) after removing their gloves or after directly handling used food service items.
- If food is offered at any event, have pre-packaged boxes or bags for each person instead of a buffet or family-style meal. Avoid sharing food and utensils and consider the [safety of individuals with food allergies](#).

*Source: Information in this resource adapted from "Considerations for Institutes of Higher Education" developed by the CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html>*

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