

August 5, 2020

Dear Student Organization leaders,

The fall is upon us – it's hard to believe! We have been working diligently to reimagine events, programs, activities, services as we prepare for fall reopening. We know that you have been doing the same.

We have engaged with student leaders this summer in ways that hopefully have helped you think about new leadership roles, recruiting new members, hosting events and activities on campus, and campus expectations. We hope these roundtables have provided spaces for you to learn how campus is changing and get to know the team in Student Life that is ready to help guide and support you through the changes. The two key skills for this year are **flexibility and adaptability**. We know as both university and student leaders, the conditions in our environment and individual behaviors will require us to change as needed. There are significant ways students can help ensure that we all stay on campus and positively contribute to the health and safety of our community. We want to highlight those ways and ask for your continued assistance.

1. **Wear a face covering!** We know that wearing a face covering can significantly reduce the transmission of this virus.
2. **Keep your physical distance and comply with public health directives.** Stay at least 6ft from each other and follow the tips that are widely shared.
3. Get [a test](#).
4. **Washing your hands** is always a good practice, but it's more important now than ever before.
5. **Sign #IPledgeColumbia** and encourage your members to sign, and live out the pledge. It is crucial that your organization is aware of their individual social responsibility, both on and off campus.
6. **Stay at home if you're sick** so that you reduce exposing others to your germs!
7. **Restrict gatherings** to less than 50 people
8. Speak to your members about the realities of **safe dating and sexual practices** during a pandemic caused by a virus that is highly spread through physical contact.
9. Questions about whether or not to attend class? Call the **COVID-19 Hotline, 24/7, 803-576-8511**

The final request is that student organization leaders are asked **to not host large events (over 50 people) with alcohol this fall**. This includes but is not limited to tailgates, away weekends, parties or formals. We know that events with alcohol can lead to large group gatherings, where public health direction and guidelines are jeopardized. We also know that alcohol lowers our inhibitions, causing us to be less careful than we normally are, and must be to prevent the spread of the virus. Our focus must be on the guidance on how to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus and doing our part to ensure a healthy and safe campus and Columbia community. We recognize that this is a significant request and puts a lot of responsibility on each of you as organizational leaders.

We have spent months preparing for the reopening of our campus, and we want to ensure that we have the best chance possible to remain together throughout the semester. Although this might not be the fall semester we all imagined, we do know that the Carolina community and student body are resilient and adaptable. Without these mitigation measures, we will have no option but to close again, which means no football, no community, and back to online classes. We are in this together and thank you for your support as we all do our part to keep our community safe and healthy.

Go Gamecocks,

Issy Rushton
Student Body President

Anna C. Edwards, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President for Student Life