

I know that you have been receiving a lot of messages with information from me, so I will try to keep this one as short as possible. But it's important as we prepare to bring the majority of our students back to campus.

The decision for an in-person semester was not made lightly and was made after months of careful consideration for the health and safety of our community and the development of a Return to Campus plan designed with community health and safety as the top priority. ***But now that we are entering move-in weekend for students and get ready for classes to start next week, I need to remind you that despite the extensive planning, our efforts can be very quickly undone with one thoughtless gathering or party, and this is why I write to you.***

I am sure you have seen the recent news stories about countless large and small colleges that have facing major COVID outbreaks or have even canceled in person classes and sent students home shortly after opening as a result of gatherings in which students took unnecessary health risks in the interest of socializing. I understand that this semester is not going to look like what any of you may have hoped for as your first year in college, your senior year, or any year in between either in the classroom or outside it. As the Trailblazer Agreement outlined, each person in the community has a role to play in our ability to continue in person learning and campus residency. We will continue to reiterate the need for continual attention to washing hands, using hand sanitizer, wearing a mask on campus and in public, and observing social distancing guidelines, and that failing to adhere to the Agreement, whether you sign it or not, will be considered a violation of our student code of conduct.

By far, one of the most important guidelines that we must follow in order to not jeopardize the health and safety of our community members as well as our ability to continue the semester as planned is the Revised Gathering Order issued by the Governor. This revision issues on August 7, 2020 applies restrictions to ALL gatherings, whether on or off campus and whether indoors or out. I would like to draw your attention to the following elements of the guidelines here.

- ***Indoor gatherings are limited to 8 people per 1,000 square feet, but cannot exceed 25 people.*** It would be important for you to understand the actual square footage of your apartment or home to understand maximum attendance.
- ***Outdoor gatherings are limited to the same 8 people per 1000 square feet with a maximum of 50 people.*** If an outdoor venue has an occupancy permit, then the capacity is 25% of the permitted capacity not to exceed 50.
- ***In gatherings of 10 or more people who are not all from the same household, all participants are required to wear a face covering.*** This applies both indoors and outdoors.
- ***All participants at indoor or outdoor gathering must maintain 6 feet distance from one another, except for those from the same household.*** It is considered a violation of the order if it is not possible in the gathering for everyone to remain 6 feet apart and applies to both indoor and outdoor gatherings.
- ***Finally, these guidelines apply to gatherings in public or private venues, including private homes, backyards, parks, athletic fields, and parking lots.***

Please understand that the College will have zero tolerance for those individuals who do not abide by the gathering guidelines listed in this email, whether as a host or a guest at such gathering. Students who violate the gathering limits including those students in off-campus apartments, will be subject to the Conduct Review Process and if found responsible may be suspended from the College. Intentionally putting the safety of our community at risk is a serious action and the College is committed to keeping the campus community safe.

Thank you for your assistance in helping us sustain a safe and healthy environment. Please let me know if you have any questions.