

Date: 07/18/2020

To: Undergraduates, House Corporations, Volunteers, and Officers

From: The Executive Committee

RE: Covid-19 Resource Review and Vetting Commission Recommendation

All guidance is in effect through December 31, 2020, unless further modified by the International Executive Committee.

I. Undergraduate Chapters

a. Operations:

The International Fraternity places the highest priority on the health and safety of its members and the communities in which they operate. Therefore, Chapters and individual members must follow all host institution, government, and health guidance and any chapter or member who willfully disregards this guidance, especially if found to have caused or contributed to COVID-19 infections on their campus or local communities may be referred to the appropriate International Fraternity Committee for potential review and sanction.

To ensure the success of the chapter it is strongly recommended that all chapters implement the following:

1. Designate a member to their Executive Committee that will be charged with driving the creation of, and adherence to, the chapter's health and safety plan related to COVID-19. The Consul retains overall responsibility for ensuring the health and safety of the chapter's members, but other officers or a new position could be designated to assist the Consul in this responsibility. Once designated this individual should be entered into the chapter system as the "COVID-19 Chairman" as they will be the primary recipient of all future guidance and direction from the International Fraternity.
2. Strictly adhere to host institution health and safety guidelines related to COVID-19 as the Fraternity will have zero-tolerance for conduct issues related to non-compliance.
3. Lead on campus by following expert and government health and safety guidelines including maintaining social distancing, limiting gathering sizes, and wearing personal protective equipment.
4. Implement [health screening](#) and [release of liability waivers](#) for any guests, including members, that enter any recognized chapter facilities or events. If any guest has a fever or indicates they have COVID-19 symptoms, have traveled in high-risk areas, or interacted with individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days do not permit them to enter facility or event.
5. Partner with house corporation, if applicable, to implement health and safety measures in chapter facility. If your chapter does not have a house corporation but has residences generally recognized as chapter facilities please review [this detailed guidance](#) on ensuring the health and safety of residents.
6. Ensure that only chapter facility residents are permitted in residential spaces to ensure the safety of the residents and the people they interact with.

7. Prepare for a reduction in annual budgeting due to reduced new member recruitment and increased health and safety expenses. To assist in reducing expenses the International Fraternity will be reducing fall 2020 leadership fees by 50% and reevaluating for spring 2021 as the situation progresses.
8. Implement [virtual Mission 365 tactics](#) to focus on virtual recruitment and new member intake. If recruitment events must happen in person it is imperative that the health and safety guidelines listed above are followed, especially if they occur in a chapter facility.
9. When conducting ritual in person is required for initiation and chapter meetings, only do so if the health and safety of the members can be assured and follow the International Fraternity's ritual modification guidance.
10. Focus on the mental health and wellness of its brothers through resources like [Strong Arms for COVID-19](#) and the Reach Out mobile app available for free on both [Google Play](#) and [Apple's App Store](#).

a. Events:

Chapters should also be fully aware that they have no liability coverage for COVID-19 related incidents meaning the Chapter, individual members, and officers could be held liable with no protection if an individual becomes infected due to the actions of the chapter or its members. Therefore, chapters must follow all host institution, government, and health safety guidelines and it is strongly recommended that Chapters implement the following:

1. Refrain from hosting any social events with alcohol in any property recognized as a chapter facility, including unrecognized properties generally known to be Sigma Chi houses.
2. Only host in-person alcohol-free brotherhood, philanthropy, recruitment, and pledge training.
3. Utilize 3rd party venues for all in-person events.
4. Focus on brotherhood events in virtual settings.

II. Volunteer and Officer Guidance

Volunteers and Officers should refer to the [COVID-19 Travel and Meeting Guidelines Memorandum](#) issued by the Executive Committee halting all volunteer and officer travel through December 31, 2020. This guidance must be followed to ensure the health and safety of all members, especially since there is no liability protection for any volunteers and officers for COVID-19 related incidents. Any volunteer or Officer who willfully disregards this guidance, especially if found to have caused or added to a COVID-19 infection in the chapters or individual members they oversee and advise, may be referred to the appropriate International Fraternity committee for potential review and sanction.

Volunteers must continue to engage with their chapters and house corporations virtually regularly to ensure they are following health and safety guidelines as outlined throughout this document, have the necessary resources to be successful, and are supported through this challenging time.

III. Housing

Chapter House Corporations should reference the following [breaking the chain of infection resource document](#) and the [Constantine Housing Initiative COVID-19 webpage](#) for guidance related to every facet of preparing chapter facilities for the Fall. To help support the health and safety of the chapter and facility residents it is strongly recommended that house corporations implement the following outlined in the resources above:

1. Ensure that only chapter facility residents are permitted in residential spaces to ensure the safety of the residents and the people they interact with.
2. Create isolation and quarantine plans for residents that are showing symptoms of infection, come in contact with someone infected or infected.
3. Empower and support chapters to take ownership of implementing proper health and safety measures, [health screenings](#) of residents and guests, and implement [release of liability waivers](#).
4. Strongly recommend against social events with alcohol in chapter facility through December 31, 2020, unless modified by the International Executive Committee. Additionally, encourage and support the chapter in hosting virtual brotherhood events.

IV. Additional Information

For more resources and information please visit the Fraternity's [COVID-19 resource webpage](#) and [webinars webpage](#), the [North Interfraternity Council Think Tank webpage](#), the [Center for Disease Control COVID-19 webpage](#), and the [World Health Organization COVID-19 webpage](#).