

Student Organization Safety Guidelines

The university is focused on making a safe campus experience for everyone. Student organizations play an integral part in protecting members and abiding by the following guidelines will be key in reducing the spread of COVID-19 on our campus and in the surrounding Columbia community. As our understanding of the virus within our community continues to shift and evolve, please note that these guidelines may change.

Overview of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. Frequently reported signs and symptoms include fever, cough, myalgia or fatigue, loss of sense of smell and taste and shortness of breath at illness onset. The incubation period is estimated at approximately 5 days. Based on what is currently known about COVID-19 and what is known about other coronaviruses, spread is thought to occur mostly from person-to-person via respiratory droplets among close contacts.

Meetings, Events, & Activities

Student organizations are encouraged to conduct meetings and events in a virtual format whenever possible using campus resources including [Microsoft Teams](#) through your university login or access to a [premium Zoom business account through Student Government](#). Additionally, Blackboard Collaborate Ultra is currently being explored as an additional resource for student organizations.

On-Campus Requirements

When a virtual activity is not possible, student organizations must adhere to the following:

- Abide by all university policies, procedures, and public health directives.
- Limit event attendance to a maximum of 50 people or the capacity of the facility, whichever is less. Attendance at these should be planned through RSVPs and recorded for contact tracing if necessary.
- Maintain physical distancing of no less than 6 feet at all times.
- Face coverings are required at all indoor and outdoor events. Please work with members who may have a disability or medical condition that interferes with their ability to wear a face covering.
- Food and beverages must be individually packaged. Buffets or self-service options are not permitted. Off-campus caterers will be prohibited from campus due to the suspension of the Russell House catering policy.
- Individuals who are not University of South Carolina students, faculty, or staff are not permitted at in person student organization meetings or events unless approved as essential through the event reservation process.

Off-Campus Expectations

- Abide by all federal, state and municipal government directives.
- Follow all above requirements to mitigate the risk of exposure to the virus.
- Refrain from all travel by your student organization. Conducting student org business (meetings, events, activities) within the Columbia Metro area does not constitute travel. Columbia Metro area is defined as a 25-mile radius from the Russell House.

Responsibility of Student Organization Leaders

As a leader of your organization, demonstrate your commitment to keep the University of South Carolina community in good health by taking the [#IPledgeColumbia](#) and honoring it during the upcoming semester.

Empower your members to hold each other accountable to these public health directives. If a member of your organization does not comply, we encourage you to ask them to do so. After repeated requests asking the person to address their behavior, fill out a public health directive incident report on the Office of Student Conduct website.

Please be advised that any violation of the University's Student Conduct Code, including the above guidelines, can result in disciplinary conduct proceedings.