

Spring 2021 Interfraternity Council COVID-19 Safety Policy

Members of the Interfraternity Council (IFC) can help protect themselves and others and slow the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) by implementing certain considerations. 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 and environmental prevention practices are important and should be implemented as feasible.

COVID-19 Guidance

North American Interfraternity Conference Member Fraternities and COVID-19 Guidance: To assist in the dissemination of information about COVID-19, the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) has reached out to its member fraternities for their guidance to chapters. Visit the [NIC's Member Fraternities COVID-19 Guidance](#) webpage for direct links.

Health and Safety Officers

- Each IFC chapter must designate a health and safety officer to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. A new officer position can be created specifically for responding to COVID-19 concerns, or an existing officer can be made responsible doing so. The officer's name, title, and contact information must be submitted to the Office of Greek Life at greeklife@tntech.edu by **Tuesday, January 19 at 8 a.m.**
- The officer should be aware of state and local regulations and guidelines, Tennessee Tech University policies and guidelines, and inter/national organization rules and guidelines regarding COVID-19.
- Chapter members should know who the officer is, what the officer's responsibilities are, and how to contact the officer.
- The Office of Greek Life will schedule and facilitate regular IFC health and safety officers' meetings during the Spring 2021 Semester to help provide COVID-19 guidance to the IFC chapters.

Protocols for Meetings and Events

In-Person Meetings and Events

- **Planning**
 - Consider hosting the meeting or event outside whenever possible.
 - Limit group size for an outdoor meeting or event to the greatest extent possible.
 - Limit group size for an on-campus, indoor meeting or event according to Tennessee Tech University's room capacity guidance, ensuring that all attendees can stay at least six feet apart from one another.
 - Limit group size for an off-campus, indoor meeting or event to no more than 50 percent of a room's capacity and ensure that all attendees can stay at least six feet apart from one another.
 - Offer virtual inclusion options, such as Zoom, FaceTime, and Facebook Live, to the greatest extent possible for individuals who cannot or should not attend the meeting or event in-person.
 - Develop and maintain an attendance tracking system (e.g., a roll book, a guest list).
 - Develop plans and procedures in case you need to either cancel or postpone the meeting or event.

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- Complete any paperwork (e.g., event registration) required by Tennessee Tech University, the Office of Greek Life, and the inter/national organization for the meeting or event.
- Implement the meeting or event following [Tennessee Tech University's COVID-19 Safety Guidance for On-Campus Events](#), as well as any guidance published by the inter/national organization.
- **Setting Up**
 - Set up rooms and other spaces to promote social distancing of at least six feet between attendees.
 - Display signs reminding attendees of personal and environmental prevention practices.
 - Ensure soap and hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol are readily available in prominent, easily accessible areas of the room or other space, including at entrances and exits and near food serving or dining areas.
- **Offering or Serving Food**
 - If food is offered at a meeting or event, then consider providing grab-and-go options (i.e., pre-packaged bags or boxes of food) instead of having a buffet or serving food family-style. Avoid sharing food and utensils, and consider the safety of attendees with food allergies.
 - If food is served at a meeting or event, then use disposable food service options (e.g., utensils, dishes). If disposable items are not feasible or desirable, then ensure all non-disposable food service items are handled with gloves and washed with dish soap and hot water or in a dishwasher. Attendees should wash their hands after removing their gloves or after directly handling used food service items.
- **Managing Attendees**
 - Discourage anyone who is feeling ill from attending the meeting or event.
 - Require all attendees, including members, potential new members, guests, and others, to wear face coverings that cover the nose and mouth while indoors or outdoors.
 - Consider providing face coverings for attendees.
 - Consider taking the temperature of attendees before they enter the meeting or event.
 - Send home any attendees who do not feel well.

Virtual Meetings and Events

- Consider whether the objectives of the meeting or event can be accomplished virtually.
- Consult [Tennessee Tech University's Student Organizations](#) webpage for information about virtual meeting platforms.

Protocols for Fraternity Houses

Residents Exhibiting COVID-19 Symptoms

- Actively encourage residents who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, have been potentially exposed to someone with COVID-19, or have tested positive for COVID-19 to self-isolate in their room and contact Health Services at 931-372-3320 or their primary health care provider for instructions. They should not go to class. They can request to have their professors notified through Health Services.

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- Any resident who has had contact with someone who is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19 should self-isolate in their room and contact Health Services at 931-372-3320 or their primary health care provider for instructions.

Cloth Face Coverings

- Recommend and reinforce the use of cloth face coverings among residents. Cloth face coverings are most essential at times when physical distancing is difficult.
- Residents should be reminded frequently not to touch their cloth face covering and to wash their hands often.
- Residents should be reminded frequently to wash their cloth face covering often.
- Cloth face coverings should not be placed on anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious.
- Cloth face coverings should not be placed on anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance.

Common Spaces and Visitors

- Access to common areas should be available, but the number of people allowed in any one common area at a time should be restricted so that everyone can stay at least six feet apart from one another.
- Arrange furniture in common areas in a manner that promotes social distancing.
- Limit the number of visitors to the house.
- Require all visitors to wear face coverings that cover the nose and mouth while indoors or outdoors.

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

- Recommend and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Encourage residents to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of their elbow. Used tissues should be thrown into the trash, and hands should be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

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, and no-touch/foot pedal trash cans.

Cleaning and Disinfection

- Develop a schedule for increased routine cleaning and disinfection.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g., door handles, sink handles, bathrooms) between use or as much as possible. Use of shared objects should be limited or cleaned between use.
- Ensure the safe and correct use and storage of cleaners and disinfectants, including storing products securely. Use products that meet EPA disinfection criteria.
- Encourage residents to keep their personal items and living spaces clean.
- Sinks could be an infection source and should avoid placing toothbrushes directly on counter surfaces. Totes can be used for personal items so that they do not touch the bathroom countertop.
- Encourage residents to use disinfectant wipes to wipe down shared spaces and other shared objects and surfaces before and after use.

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- Ensure there is adequate ventilation when using cleaning products to prevent residents from inhaling toxic fumes.

Ventilation

- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly.
- Increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors. Do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a health or safety risk.

Physical Barriers and Guides

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

Modified Layouts

- Space seating at least six feet apart when feasible.
- Host smaller meetings in larger rooms.

Signs and Messages

- Post signs in highly visible locations (e.g., building entrances, dining areas, bathrooms) 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 covering.
- Visit the [CDC's Communication Resources](#) webpage to find free COVID-19 digital and print resources.

Policy Enforcement and Updates

Enforcement: **COVID-19 safety plans are required as a condition of event registration with the Office of Greek Life.** IFC chapters must adhere to the safety plans created, submitted to, and agreed upon with the coordinator of Greek Life. Failure to do so could result in disciplinary consequences, up to and including removal of recognition from Tennessee Tech University.

Updates

- The Spring 2021 IFC COVID-19 Safety Policy, including the types of meetings and events permissible and protocols for meetings and events, is subject to change based on executive orders issued by the governor of Tennessee.
- Updates will be communicated with IFC chapter presidents via email.