

Dear Members of the Penn State Law and SIA Community,

As we head into a weekend with the Ohio State football game and Halloween, I wanted to invite all students, faculty, and staff to join us for our [virtual tailgate and watch party](#). I also am writing to remind students of the Penn State Compact requirements and state and local laws.

- **Masking:** As stated in the Compact, “Wear face coverings in campus buildings at all times, outdoors when you cannot social distance from others, and wherever state or local laws require.” [State College](#) requires you to wear masks indoors in public places, indoors when you are with people who are not part of your family or household, and outdoors when you cannot socially distance. So, if you go to a bar or have a private gathering with people who are not part of your household, please make sure that you are wearing a mask that covers your mouth and nose.
- **Social Distancing:** As stated in the compact, “Honor the physical distancing requirements established in classrooms, other campus locations, and all other gatherings on campus; do so in any other context off-campus that requires distancing.” Please make sure you maintain social distance from anyone who is not in your household.
- **Size of Gatherings:** Under State College law, gatherings in private residences must be 10 people or less, including the people who live in the residence, whether inside or outside. Please make sure you do not host or attend a gathering larger than 10 people in a private residence. Regardless of where you are, please comply with applicable masking, distancing and gathering-size requirements

I also want to reinforce the potentially serious consequences for students who violate the Compact. As the University [indicates](#): “Violations of the University’s expectations or local or state laws related to COVID-19 will typically result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct (OSC). OSC will enact its conduct process, and students who are determined to be responsible for a violation will be subject to sanctions, up to and including separation from the University. It is important to note that any large gathering in violation of local ordinances will be considered a serious violation and will likely result in a suspension.” Any member of our community who witnesses a violation can report it through this [form](#).

Also, I wanted to reiterate that **any student organization event in either school with more than 10 people in person, no matter where they are located (inside or outside, on or off campus), must be approved by me.** Student organizations seeking approval, at least two weeks in advance of the event, should, in line with university rules, provide the following information in an application:

- Explain how the proposed event is in alignment with the mission of the university;
- Provide justification as to why the meeting or event cannot take place virtually or in a hybrid format (some participants in person and others virtually);
- Provide the total number of individuals attending the meeting or event, which must include the employees working the event;
- Include a plan that outlines how the organizers will meet the [state of Pennsylvania’s regulations](#). Masks and other required PPE must be worn if the event is indoors and plans for abiding by social distancing guidelines must be included;
- Provide evidence that employees requesting to attend the meeting or event have been approved via the Return to Work process. A request must be made to return employees to the workplace at <https://sites.psu.edu/returntowork/>;
- If the event is on campus, work with the Office of Physical Plant to determine the room capacity that allows for social distancing;

- Keep a list of all attendees, the 'return to work' approval status of employees, the locations from which non-employees are traveling, and their telephone numbers for contact purposes.

I recognize that these restrictions are inconvenient and appreciate all of the efforts that our students are making. I look forward to seeing some of you this weekend at our virtual tailgate and game-watching party and cheering on the team. WE ARE! Beat Ohio State!

Best,  
Hari Osofsky

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