



October 16, 2020

Dear Pitt-Johnstown students,

As you all know, our campus has been changed to the Elevated Risk Posture because of a rapid escalation in positive COVID-19 cases on campus. Many in our campus community – students, staff and faculty – are working very hard to stop the spread of the virus but we need everyone, especially students, to do their part.

Let me be clear: Bad behavior and decision making could threaten a successful completion of the fall term. Your actions have consequences. If you want to continue living on campus as well as in-person classes this semester, then support the health and well-being of the members of our community with your actions.

Enhanced enforcement and supervision of our safety protocols will be happening every weekend. Staff from Student Affairs, Student Conduct, Residence Life and Campus Police will be out on campus enforcing the “no gatherings” rules every weekend starting now. DO NOT enter housing facilities that you do not live in.

Let me be clear about potential consequences during our Elevated Risk Posture:

- When students and student organizations are reported for violating the Student Code of Conduct Health and Safety rules, **interim housing suspensions and/or Persona Non Grata (PNG) restrictions** will apply while a hearing is being conducted. PNG status means the student is restricted from access to all University buildings and grounds.
- **If a student hosts a party (on or off campus, i.e. Campus Commons or Bloomfield, etc.)** and is found responsible for a violation, the student will be sanctioned to disciplinary suspension through the semester.
- **If a student organization hosts a large party or event** and is found responsible for a violation, the organization will be sanctioned to interim suspension of registration for no less than the remainder of the academic year.
- **If a student living in a residence hall attends a large party** and is found responsible for a violation, the student will be sanctioned to housing suspension through the semester.
- **If a student living off campus attends a large party** and is found responsible for a violation, the student will be sanctioned to permanent Persona Non Grata (PNG) status through the academic year.

My expectations are clear:

- **Do not hold or attend parties where physical distancing is not possible or where attendees are not following face covering requirements – stay with your pod.** You need to exercise common sense. Most apartments cannot safely hold more than 4-5 people while accounting for physical distancing of 6-feet between people.
- Do not socialize with people who are not part of your pod during the Elevated Posture.
 - *If you are an off-campus student, your pod consists of the people you live with.*
 - *If you are an on-campus student, your pod is your roommates and suitemates.*
- Wear face coverings - ALWAYS.
- Wear your face covering properly—it must cover both your mouth and nose.
- Practice good hand hygiene and avoid touching high-touch surfaces with your hands.

These are reasonable and easy precautions to take during this pandemic, so hold yourself and others accountable. If you see UPJ affiliates breaking these guidelines—students, faculty or staff—then report the behavior.

A report about a COVID-related concern can be [filed here](#) or on the coronavirus.pitt.edu website. A conduct referral on a student violating university guidelines can be [filed here](#). The more information you can provide, the better able we are to follow up with appropriate consequences.

Since the beginning of the semester, we have all had the time to learn about this virus and adapt to our new campus environment. Now it is time to demonstrate that you understand this is serious business, with serious consequences. **We must work together to stop the spread of the virus.**

And remember, no matter what posture we're in: Wear your face covering. Practice physical distancing. Practice good hand hygiene. Keep your close contacts to a minimum!

Sincerely,



Christian J. Stumpf
Vice President of Student Affairs