



Consequences for Violating COVID Protocols

Aug. 27, 2020

The College Is Committed to Ensuring a Healthy Environment for Learning and Living

The College appreciates students' cooperation thus far with its safety protocols. All of your efforts, however, to protect yourself and the community could be compromised if persons choose to attend a large off-campus gathering, even for a brief period. In the event that a few students don't take the COVID-19 threat seriously and violate these protocols, their stay in our community will be short-lived. Students that host or attend a large off-campus or on-campus gathering, social or party, will receive an interim suspension from Wilmington College. This can be extended to a semester suspension.

The choices students make will play a critical role in minimizing transmission of COVID-19 within the College community and within our neighboring communities. Students who suspend good judgment and risk exposing themselves and others to the coronavirus will face disciplinary action.

Disciplinary Actions

The College will immediately issue interim suspensions and follow up via the disciplinary process outlined in the Wilmington College Code of Student Responsibilities:

- If you host a large (more than 9 people) gathering, social or party off campus or on-campus, you will receive an interim suspension and may be suspended for a semester, and will not be able to attend classes in-person or remotely during your suspension.
- If you attend a large (more than 9 people) gathering, social or party off campus or on campus, you will receive an interim suspension and may be suspended for a semester, and will not be able to attend classes in-person or remotely during your suspension.
- If your student organization, club sport, or team hosts a large (more than 9 people) gathering, social, party or event, you will receive an interim suspension and may be



suspended for a semester, and will not be able to attend classes in-person or remotely during your suspension.

- If you live in on or off-campus student residences and violate these guidelines, you will have to move out of your residence during your suspension and may not be permitted to live on campus for the remainder of the academic year.

If you are suspended in the interim or for a semester, you will not receive a tuition or, if applicable, room and board refund.

These actions are in line with what other universities in Ohio and across the country have already done: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/08/25/906039378/more-than-200-ohio-state-university-students-suspended-for-violating-pandemic-ru>

Reporting Large Gatherings – Observed and Upcoming

You may report observed or upcoming large gatherings or other situations in which members of this community are not wearing face coverings or observing physical distancing as required by the College while they socialize by contacting Campus Safety or the Office of Student Affairs. If you see members of this community not respecting the guidelines outlined here, then report the behavior. The more information you can provide, the better able we are to follow up with appropriate consequences.

Personal Gathering Exclusions

There are several types of personal gatherings that do not fall under the College's restrictions. They are as follows: weddings, funerals, family gatherings and religious gatherings. If you are considering hosting or attending another type of personal gathering not specifically listed, you should reach out to Student Affairs to confirm that it does not violate the College's guidelines.

Furthermore, student organization meetings, organized student outdoor exercise and other programming organized by the College (e.g., athletics, housing, diversity or activities programming) may be allowed. However, if there may be more than 9 people in attendance, the meeting or event must be registered and submitted for approval at least 3 business days in advance and must set out the safety protocols that will be followed. An attendance list must also be submitted to enable contact tracing if needed. The College expects that everyone in attendance will follow all safety protocols found at <https://www.wilmington.edu/about/covid-19/>.



Finally, class-related activities organized by your professor with over 9 people in attendance are not prohibited by the guidelines. However, all class related activities such as field trips must follow all College safety protocols and an attendance log must be kept in order to enable contact tracing if needed. The College expects that everyone participating in class-related activities will follow all safety protocols.

The Community's Shared Responsibility Is Essential for a Successful WC Experience in 2020-21

Our actions have consequences. We have to use our collective power to maintain an environment where we can all live and learn. To succeed, we have to work together. I am confident that you will have healthy, creative and meaningful experiences to reacquaint with and meet each other. The College stands with and is encouraged by so many of you who are and continue to make your personal health, safety and well-being, as well as that of the campus and the surrounding communities, a priority.

The College wishes it will not have to suspend anyone, and believes if we all work together, and remain committed to our goal of maintaining a healthy living and learning environment, we can and we will do this.