



VIDEO TRANSCRIPT
DR. ANDY MORGAN, INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

August 20, 2020

Hello, Sycamores.

I am Dr. Andy Morgan and I have the great privilege of serving as Interim Vice President for Student Affairs here at Indiana State University.

With the campus move-ins complete and classes underway, I wanted to reach out and say how excited we are that you are here. You have chosen ISU to pursue your higher education and your success here will lead to an exciting future of incredible opportunities.

Last week, President Curtis spoke to you in a video like this to stress the importance for each of us – you and me—to take personal responsibility for our actions in responding to the global pandemic of COVID-19. As Dr. Curtis said, “Students attending crowded bars and parties will spread the virus and make it unmanageable for the university. Much worse, it will threaten the lives of others.”

Recently, it has come to the University’s attention that students are engaging in off-campus gatherings that increase the likelihood of spreading the virus to others.

The University, after months of planning, has taken very careful steps to make the ISU on-campus college experience as safe as possible amid the pandemic. A lot of hard work has gone into our planning. However, like any plan, it requires the cooperation of everyone to make it successful.

Behaviors of some who are engaging in very risky off-campus activities could jeopardize the University’s ability to maintain on-campus activity.

It takes only one or two individuals engaged in the wrong behaviors, such as holding or attending parties, to spark a quick and aggressive spread of the virus throughout the entire campus community. Such a spread endangers the lives of others and will force University leaders to make very difficult decisions on whether we can continue with on-campus learning.

Today, the University released the “Temporary Student Directives for the Prevention of COVID-19”. I want to make sure our students understand these directives. So please understand these points.

Students attending or student organization engaged in parties or large gatherings will be held accountable to the Code of Student Conduct. Sanctions may range from interim suspension or suspension for the remainder of the semester or longer. This is a zero tolerance policy.

ISU is collaborating with the Vigo County Health Department to provide contact tracing for ISU students and employees. Students are required to cooperate and provide information to contact tracers, and those who knowingly provide false information to the Sycamore Symptom Assessment or to contact tracers are subject to disciplinary measures in the Code of Student Conduct.

Personal health information provided through the Sycamore Symptom Assessment or to contact tracers will be kept confidential.

This is a difficult message to have to share because we know that most of our students are doing the right thing by adhering to the common sense practices advised by state and local public health officials.

We believe that most of our students are socially distancing, wearing face coverings, and staying away from parties and large gatherings.

For this, we thank you.

Those who choose not to follow these safety rules may be required to separate from our community.

The health, well-being, and success of our entire ISU community is at stake.

The leaders of Indiana State University will do everything we can to continue the safe and inclusive environment that makes this university so very unique and special. Please, do your part. Do the right thing that will keep you safe and help keep others safe.

We are Sycamore Strong and we will get through this together.

Thank you.