Frequently Asked Questions for Fraternities and Sororities

This document is an ongoing and evolving resource for fraternity and sorority chapter members, advisors, regional representatives, headquarters staff members, and family about Indiana State University’s response to COVID-19.

What is happening?

Please see the official statement and check here for regular updates here: https://www.indstate.edu/covid-19

The University has moved to online-only instruction for the remainder of the Spring semester. All University and student organization events have been cancelled during this time. As registered student organizations, the expectation is that ALL fraternity and sorority life events (chapter meetings, philanthropy, service, social, member development, new member presentations, intramurals, etc.), regardless of location, should be re-scheduled, cancelled, or converted to a digital/distance option. Please note that any events that are held, in violation of this interim action, may result in a referral to Student Conduct & Integrity for review and possible adjudication.

I have plans to travel for Spring Break – what should I do?

For spring break and other personal travel, the American College Health Association advises that “all travelers should thoroughly research their destinations.” The Center for Disease Control is also regularly updating their travel health notices regarding domestic and international travel, which can be an ongoing planning resource.

We have a fraternity/sorority house – what should we do?

It is recommended that your organization align with the same standards currently in place for Residence Life: adopt a policy of residents-only for your facilities and not have ANY guests during this time. In addition, organizations should schedule move-out to align with residence hall closures of noon on Saturday March 21. Presidents should also return the Member Location Update form to the FSL Director by March 18 at noon.

How can we host chapter or other meetings?

In this time of social distancing as a preventative measure, we would encourage you utilize group video conferencing option for meetings, trainings, or other reoccurring gatherings (ex. Skype, Zoom, Google Hangout, etc.). Your inter/national organization may have a paid partnership with a video conferencing software that you can utilize for these purposes to continue to conduct business as needed. For any in-person events or meetings scheduled on-campus during the period of online instruction, cancellation confirmations should have been sent.

What about fundraising for philanthropy if we can’t hold our events as planned?

In the interim, we encourage you to look at initiatives like Give to Blue Day as examples of ongoing fundraising utilizing online platforms. While you are not able to host in-person fundraising events, we would suggest seeking opportunities to use digital means, generate names of family and friends, and seek donations highlighting why the cause is important to you via e-mail, social media, or other digital means.
We are in the middle of new member education – what about big/little, initiation, and other ceremonies?

We understand that many organizations are in the middle or towards the end of a new member education process. We ask that you reach out to your headquarters/regional support team to see if you can host an immediate ceremony prior to March 16 or ask them questions on restrictions of the broadcast of a ceremony using digital means. The FSL Office will work with organizations, regional support teams, and headquarters to make accommodations as needed for the extension of any processes or rescheduling the location of events for items like neophyte presentations.

We have formal or another event planned at a venue with a deposit or contract – what should we do?

First, we encourage you to read your contract. In some cases, you may be able to re-schedule an event to an alternate date based on the venue’s availability. You should share the official statement from the University, explain that you can no longer host the event, and need to cancel/change the date. We hope that businesses and venues will be understanding of the extraordinary circumstances, and allow you to cancel or re-schedule. FSL staff can assist in making calls as needed, and we encourage you to have conversations with your regional support team and/or headquarters. In each case, please ensure that your organization re-submits a Social Event Registration Form if the date/location/guest list has changed.

In the event that this process does not yield a positive outcome, The University’s General Counsel Office is available to review contracts and provide advice regarding best practices of moving forward with contracts.

What about FSL/Council events like Tri-Council or GLS III?
The March 18 Greek Leadership Series III event will be re-scheduled to another date, likely in the start of the Fall semester as space allows. The FSL Office will provide updates when that event has been confirmed. The FSL Office will be looking to host regular Tri-Council meetings and advisor roundtables after Spring Break and throughout the remainder of the semester utilizing a virtual means. All council-sponsored events for the remainder of the spring semester (ex. IFC Men’s Health Week, NPHC Week, and PA’s Circle of Sisterhood Week) have been cancelled and will be re-scheduled for the Fall semester.

Is Spring Week still happening?

As the Governor of Indiana has issued a statement that no events larger than 250 may take place through Thursday, April 30, Spring Week activities (including Sycamore Sessions) have been cancelled. For specific questions on Spring Week, please contact Kevon Christian (Kevon.Christian@indstate.edu). For any questions regarding Tandem, please contact Chelsea Dolly (Chelsea.Dolly@indstate.edu).