

## Center for Fraternity & Sorority Life

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**From:** Schacht, Leslie  
**Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2020 1:43 PM  
**To:** Center for Fraternity & Sorority Life  
**Cc:** Dougherty, Kevin A; Peters, Johnny B; Elam-Geuting, Kelsey K  
**Subject:** Oregon State University Updates  
**Attachments:** Barracks Layout Jan 2010.pdf

**Importance:** High

### Inter/National Organization Partners:

Greetings from Oregon State University! I hope this message finds you staying safe and well. Thank you for the communication you've been sending our office and students regarding organization operations and support during this uncertain time. I'm writing today to provide updates from our campus and offer myself and [our team](#) as a resource for you as support for your chapter at OSU. For updates, check the [COVID-19 Information](#) on the OSU homepage to review the current status of OSU. And, you can access information shared with fraternity/sorority leadership by [clicking here](#).

Here in Corvallis, we're adjusting to an online environment with campus open for critical functions only. Final exams for winter quarter were delivered remotely last week. Students are now on spring break and courses will be delivered remotely for spring term starting Monday. Residence & dining halls will be open for students who wish to remain on campus. Our chapters plan to operate virtually for the spring term, and we are working on how we support our students through this new normal. Currently housed fraternities and sororities are analyzing their plans for spring term, and some are choosing to close while a few are planning to remain open.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown issued an [Executive Order](#) on Monday, March 23, 2020, that outlines updated guidance for all Oregonians. We recommended to OSU chapters that they review this information with their inter/national organization (you) so that you have the opportunity to provide further direction on chapter operations. We've requested additional information from the appropriate offices regarding the Governor's Executive Order pertaining to fraternal organizations, but at this time we don't have any additional information about the intent about whether this applies to the chapters. While we do not believe the EO was specifically intended to apply to fraternities/sororities, we do not have that clarity on the EO at this time.

### We also have recommended the following measures in order to prioritize [social distancing](#) measures:

- We are encouraging student groups to utilize [Zoom](#) to conduct meetings virtually, or use a free conferencing service such as FreeConferenceCall. OSU has shared [programming resources](#) with chapters as well so they can remotely stay engaged with their members.
- Chapter sponsored and co-sponsored social gatherings, functions, events, etc. should be cancelled or postponed. The Corvallis Fire Department will not be permitting social events during this time.
- Chapter recruitment activities should be paused. Each governing council will communicate a specific plan related to their own recruitment processes for spring term.
- Membership intake activities already underway should be completed virtually or with social distancing, if possible. Beginning any new membership intake process should be considered through consultation with the chapter advisor, our staff, and the inter/national organization. **We are very interested in supporting chapters who planned to complete spring quarter membership intake prior to COVID-19 disruptions, and we look forward to working with your organization on how this can be possible for your OSU chapter.**
- Philanthropies, retreats, alumni programs, and other chapter events should be evaluated and determined if they can still occur in an altered, remote, or online fashion. If not, postponement or cancelation should be considered.

#### Other information to note:

- All-University Sing has been cancelled for 2020. This was particularly sad news for the [27 participating chapters](#).
- All governing council delegate and executive board meetings, as well as roundtables, will continue and be occurring remotely.
- We will work with chapters to continue to execute [2020 Relationship Statement](#) criteria and will be providing resources to assist.

#### Housed Chapters Specific Guidance:

- Below my signature, you'll find specific guidance from Benton County Health Department. The information provides guidance regarding sleeping porches and housed chapter capacity. **Currently, the guidance from the Benton County Health Department is that student housing – where residents utilize sleeping porches or any form of congregate living that does not enable appropriate social distancing – should be closed.** If a chapter is unable to close, considerable restrictions need to immediately be put in place in respect to social distancing. If a chapter decides to not close, remember that it is the responsibility of the chapter to enforce social distancing among all members who choose to continue living in the housed fraternity or sorority. Currently, 10/11 NPC sororities have closed and 3/17 IFC fraternities have closed. Some that remain open are greatly restricting the number of live-in members to a very small number. If you would like to know the status of your housed chapter at OSU, reply to this email and I can provide additional information that has been shared with our office.
- **Corvallis Campus Residence Halls Remain Open:** If you have members who may face housing insecurity for spring term based on your fraternity or sorority house closing, know that on-campus housing managed by [University Housing & Dining Services \(UHDS\)](#) remains open. Students are welcome to sign contracts for spring term through the MyUHDS portal.

If you'd like to connect further or have other questions about OSU operations, please don't hesitate to reply to this email. As in-person operations return to OSU, we will share further updates. Thank you for your continued partnership!

Interfraternally,

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Leslie Schacht Drey

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#### Communication from Benton County Health Department officials:

Based on information provided by OSU and the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic, Benton County Health Department's position is that at this time sleeping porches present a serious risk to the health and safety of residents, and put the community at risk of further spread of this infectious disease.

Benton County Health Department recommends:

- 1) Close OSU-affiliated student housing where residents utilize sleeping porches or any form of congregate living that violates social distancing.
- 2) If a house cannot close, limit total house occupancy to 25.
- 3) Limit people inside the home at any one time or event, to a maximum of 25.
- 4) Cease all social events hosted by the housed chapter.
- 5) Maintain minimum 6 feet distancing at all times and for all activities, including but not limited to meals and studying.

- 6) Redistribute beds and bunks throughout the home as able while still meeting fire safety guidelines. Utilize the attached bunk arrangement document developed by the U.S. Army.

*This is a rapidly evolving situation and recommendations are subject to change at any time.*

*U.S. Army recommendations were developed in 2010 for general guidance to prevent the spread of disease in barracks.*