

**From:** [IFC President](#)  
**To:** [Peters, Johnny B](#)  
**Subject:** IFC's Stance on Corona Virus  
**Date:** Thursday, March 12, 2020 5:24:30 PM

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## IFC // COVID-19

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### **For those that won't read this whole email:**

Socials - Cancelled (Judicial for any IFC chapter still hosting functions w/o IFC/Fire Dept. Approval)

IFC Recruitment Events - Postponed

Spring Recruitment - Jump/Orientation/Tabling all postponed, individual chapters recruitment options still under consideration

Living in chapter houses - Totally fine, decide for yourselves at your discretion

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### **The Current Situation**

On the global scale we're currently seeing

- "WHO", the World Health Organization declare this to be a pandemic
- Governor Kate Brown declared a state of emergency
- There are 21 confirmed cases in Oregon
- Universities all across the nation closing campus operations, forcing all classes online, extending these policies into spring term, and extending spring breaks.
- IFC Presidents across the nation unanimously following suit of their institutions
- The NBA/NHL/MLB/March madness have been cancelled, we're talking billion dollar enterprises cancelling their revenue streams. If they can sacrifice that, we can sacrifice as well.

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### **IFC Stance**

Out of an abundance of caution, here is IFC's view on the following items:

- IFC Recruitment Orientation & Tabling day - Postponed

IFC Jump Day - Postponed, potentially cancelled (Spring new members will get to jump fall term)

- Social events - Cancelled, civil penalties from fire department & judicial hearings for unregistered functions
- Brotherhoods - We don't make judgements on this outside of "Behavior unbecoming of a chapter", generally a bad idea though
- In-Person Philanthropy events - Postponed (remote fundraising etc... is fine)
- Spring In-Person recruitment - Under Consideration (more info to come)
- Spring Roundtables - Digital based
- IFC Delegates / Exec meetings - Digital over zoom

I understand some chapter leaders are also worried about their live-in situation. From an IFC perspective we will make no decisions on if you can/cannot live in your chapter house. You're in charge of your own property and who is welcome on it/when.

For your spring term chapter specific recruitment, we are suggesting you go fully digital. There will be no penalties enforced for in-person events being hosted, but we hope you understand that keeping the community safe is our #1 priority.

We don't have any jurisdiction over sing.

For any Alumni/Family/Parents/Initiations/Founders days, refer to your guidelines from nationals, and your own discretion.

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## Disclaimers

- I am not speaking on behalf of MGC, CGC, NPHC, or Panhellenic.
- These policies are subject to change as the situation develops
- These are suggestions

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## Suggestions Vs. Enforcement

The following institutions are making strong suggestions/recommendations:

- Oregon State University
- CFSL

- IFC (Social functions will result in penalties)

The following institutions will enforce civil penalties if not adhered to:

- Corvallis Fire Department
- Benton County Health Department (These are who will deal with containments/interviewing anyone related to a case)

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## Detailed Explanation & Reasoning

The following is a synthesis of the analysis from the UW IFC President, what over 40 IFC president's I've been coordinating with have released to their communities, and that I have come to understand in the past 72 hours...

After consulting with our 4 additional council's leadership heads, University Officials, and CFSL Staff I have decided that it is in the best interest of the community to implement an IFC and associated chapters event pausing in alignment with the periods outlined by the University's new requirements for holding classes online.

I want to explain my reasoning with hopes that you will both understand my perspective, agree with my assessment, and support the implementation for the best interest of the community.

The fact of the matter is that COVID-19 cases, and the rate at which new ones are being discovered, are both increasing rapidly in the Oregon area and around the nation.

Through my conversations, it has become apparent to me that there is a non-insignificant likelihood that we will see case numbers - and their proximity to campus - increase before they decrease. Because of this, I would like to ensure that our community sees that the COVID-19 has as little of an impact as possible.

You may be wondering what impact an event pausing will have in preventing the spread of communicable diseases, which is something I am not an expert on. What I do know however is that per the CDC, transmission of the COVID-19 occurs as follows (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019->

[ncov/about/transmission.html](https://www.cdc.gov/ncov/about/transmission.html)) :

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet)
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

Because IFC social events can involve members of the community dancing, breathing, and sweating within very close proximity to one another, and regularly involve the consumption of alcohol from the bottle itself, it is clear to me that **should a member of an organization attend a social event after being exposed to the COVID-19, the conditions of the social event are almost a perfect environment for the virus to spread.** As well, in the past we've seen how social events have lead to increased incidence of both mumps and the norovirus within the community, and so it would logically follow that the same applies to the COVID-19.'

'My request to you is as follows: I ask that you also cancel any of the bulleted events under "IFC Policies Implemented" you may have had planned. This includes (but is not limited to) pre-games, day-fades, social functions. My absolute priority is that we minimize the impact that this has on the community. While I can only stop what is registered, if we don't take steps to stop unregistered social events between chapters as well, it is my best understanding that this could impact our community significantly. The intent of this social pausing is to severely limit the contact of members of different chapters - whether the event is registered or not - to restrict the potential spread of COVID-19. I truly believe, with all of the information that I've been provided, that this is both **necessary** and **effective**, and **will** have a positive impact on limiting the spread of COVID-19 within our community. I also believe that waiting to implement a social pausing for a confirmed case is both irresponsible, and frankly too late.'

'I also ask that when communicating this with your chapters, you do so with the

utmost emphasis on the fact that this is a **purely preventative measure**.  
Regardless I will be content knowing that we erred on the side of caution for the  
best interest of our community and the communities each of us are a part of  
outside of'

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Greek life at OSU gives students life changing experiences that can't be delivered in  
any other way.

It is our mission as IFC leaders to protect its existence, guide its operations, and be  
active catalysts for its growth, so that others may experience the same opportunities  
we were given.

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**Our mailing address is:**

IFC Oregon State  
SEC 108  
Corvallis, OR 97330

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