

Chapter Events Guidelines for COVID-19

CHAPTER EVENTS GUIDELINES FOR 2021-22

THE ROLE OF GUIDELINES

Guidelines are best recommendations provided to create plans with the least potential for risk. The guidelines below are to support the practices in place for chapter gatherings on campus and in the community. They support guidelines such as those found in the “Facility Usage Expectations” and “Member Expectations” sections of the [COVID-19 Facility Guidelines for 2021-22](#) document provided by the National Housing Corporation (NHC), recommendations by MJ Insurance and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#). These guidelines should be utilized for, but are not limited to, chapter meetings, sisterhood events, workshops, social events, and study groups, and they are for all chapters, whether housed or unhoused. If there is conflict between guidelines provided in this resource guide and those being provided by your college/university or local health officials, Alpha Chi Omega recommends the more stringent requirements be followed.

Alpha Chi Omega will continue to monitor and update event guidelines with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO) and our national insurance provider, MJ Insurance. [May 2021](#) CDC guidance provides updated guidelines regarding face coverings and social distances based on vaccination status which Alpha Chi Omega endeavors to support.

VACCINATIONS

In alignment with guidance from the CDC, Alpha Chi Omega strongly encourages you to get vaccinated, if you haven’t already done so, to protect yourself and others.

While you are not required to get the vaccine to be a member, there are times when procedures are different for those who are vaccinated and those who are not. We ask that all members respect each individual’s decision regarding vaccinations.

FACE COVERING INFORMATION

Alpha Chi Omega is requiring members and guests in the chapter facility's common areas and at all indoor chapter events, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a face covering. This includes during pre-recruitment, recruitment and Bid Day activities. This decision was not made lightly. Because of CDC guidance regarding the ability for vaccinated people to spread the virus, this requirement is an effort to reduce the spread, particularly as students travel from various areas back to campus. As a private membership organization, Alpha Chi Omega has the right to require face coverings, regardless of state or local ordinances.

MANAGING EXCUSES

As chapters return to in-person events and events within the facility, it will be important for chapters to continue to provide flexibility to members for mandatory events. If members have genuine health and safety concerns regarding in-person events the chapter should work with the member to find alternative options or accommodations to support the members comfort with participating or supporting chapter events, when possible. We ask that chapters stay committed to prioritizing the health and safety of all members and understand the concerns members may have regarding in person events.

EVENT FORMAT OPTIONS

Based on campus, local and state guidelines, chapters may determine their preferred events model. Chapters may determine they will host primarily virtual events, in-person events or a hybrid of both virtual and in-person participation options for events. Chapter members should be made aware of the upcoming semester or quarter events and event format in advance.

FOOD

Chapters may host events in which food is provided or part of the event. To limit the amount of contact between attendees and shared serving tunicles the following options for providing food should be considered.

- Encourage attendees to bring their own food, as permitted.
- Provide individually pre-packaged or boxed food and drinks.
- Set up food at multiple serving stations or pre-set food at seats.
- Have designated individuals facilitate serving buffet style food. Those individuals should wear protective face coverings and gloves at all times while serving food.
- Have many trash disposal locations available.
- The areas where food will be set up should be wiped down prior to and after use.