

Faculty and staff,

Sharing with you an email I just sent to students regarding Gov. Northam's announcement this week about new guidelines on social gatherings. Have a great weekend!

Students,

Because of you, our Covid-19 case numbers as reflected on our [dashboard](#) have been low and stable for several weeks now. All members of the community deserve a great deal of praise for your sacrifice and commitment to our campus community's health. It is because of this that we can safely follow Gov. Northam's announcement this week and revise health guidelines on social gatherings on and around campus.

Beginning April 1 (next Thursday), social gathering limits will be increased to 50 people for indoors events and 100 people for outdoors events. Social distancing and mask wearing guidelines will still be in place for social gatherings--and are critical pieces of ensuring that we don't have to go back to stricter limits, as has happened at a number of college campuses. Social gatherings are still where the virus is spread the most, but we hope this will allow more togetherness for the rest of the semester -- and we remain optimistic for a very much more normal fall semester, too. If you are hosting a gathering, I strongly urge you to hold it outside, weather permitting.

A few more items:

Vaccine Eligibility

A reminder that if you are a student between 16-64 and have [underlying health conditions identified by the CDC](#), which include asthma, diabetes, and obesity, you are eligible to sign up for a Covid-19 vaccine at vaccinate.virginia.gov. We urge you to register and get your vaccine as soon as you are able.

We remain hopeful that before the end of the academic year, vaccine distribution will be open to healthy adults of all ages. When we get word of that, we will alert you.

On-Call Nurse Line

We've seen a little bit of confusion regarding the nursing hotline that students can use. Please do not call the hotline during business hours, instead call the University Health Center at 434-395-2102. Hotline nurses do not have access to your test results or medical history, nor can they make you an appointment at the UHC. They are available for advice in acute situations when the UHC is not open. In an emergency, always call 911.

Fire Drills

Fire drills are scheduled for April 11. When you hear the alarm sound, please exit your residence halls or apartments and stay outside until given the all-clear to return. If you are in quarantine or isolation, please stay in your room.

Thanks and stay safe,

Matthew McWilliams
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