

Dear ETSU Student Organization Leaders and Advisors,

As a student organization leader or advisor your role in helping to encourage healthy practices among student organization members is crucial to the safety of our community. I am looking to you protect our Buccaneer family this fall. The information you share with your members, your encouragement for them to follow health guidelines, and your own commitment to following protocols will help us to maintain university operations and keep people safe.

You may have already completed the [Buccaneer Safety Pledge](#). I want you to share this link with your organization members and complete the pledge as a group effort for those who have not done training individually. The pledge outlines expectations for all community members, including wearing a mask while on campus, physically distancing from others, and practicing other safety precautions. Have discussions about the information and if questions related to COVID-19 and/or campus resources, support, or operations, arise connect your members to assistance. Please refer them to the [Bucs are Back webpage](#), or to the [Dean of Students office](#) and share these resources on your social media pages. We are happy to help them.

Moving into the fall semester, there will be unique parameters placed on activities and events. I expect you to follow those. Health experts and local officials have warned that a primary contributor to the spread of the virus is disregard for health guidelines, including hand washing, wearing masks, physical distancing and avoiding large crowds. Large social events have been the starting points of several outbreaks at other universities. Your organizations are in a unique position to either help us be successful in stopping the spread of COVID-19, or create challenges that could have serious health and operational challenges for individuals and the university.

Students and student organizations who choose to disregard these expectations can expect a swift response. Groups found in violation of the guidelines have the potential to lose current and future support of activities and events. In addition to that, the Dean of Students office is prepared to address issues of non-compliance. The [COVID-19 face covering policy](#) and our [student code of conduct](#) outline behavior, both on and off campus, that is considered to be in violation of university policy. Sanctions for violations could include university probation, suspension, and/or expulsion.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of us and your partnership with addressing these concerns, providing information to your members, and promoting compliance is crucial to your own health and the health of others.

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