

Dear ETSU Student Organization Leaders and Advisors,

As we enter the spring 2021 term, I want to share motivation and guidance to continue our fight against COVID-19. Health experts and local officials have warned that a primary contributor to the virus's spread is disregard for health guidelines. Included in this message is guidance on how to navigate managing the risk presented by COVID-19.

Our campus rules remain steadfast to guard against the spread of COVID-19. Please encourage your members to continue wearing [face coverings](#), to physically distance themselves from others, and to practice other safety precautions.

As student leaders and advisors, we expect you to have discussions about this information. If questions related to COVID-19, 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](#). Share these resources on your social media pages. We want to make it known to your communities that we are happy to help.

The COVID-19 guidelines placed on activities and events are continuing this spring. I expect you and your members to follow those. We must remain diligent throughout this pandemic. Your organization is in a unique position to help us successfully stop the spread of COVID-19 or create challenges that could have severe health and operational issues 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 can 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 violate university policy. Sanctions for violations could include university probation, suspension, or expulsion.

As the availability of vaccines increases, we will have an increased ability to guard against COVID-19. However, until the threat of COVID-19 is significantly reduced from where we are today, we will need to continue to promote safe practices for the immediate future and beyond. I appreciate your help in doing so within our Buccaneer community.

Sincerely,

Michelle Byrd, Ed.D.
Dean of Students
ETSU
byrdt@etsu.edu
423-439-4210

