



In response to the spike in cases of COVID-19 at the University of Virginia, the Interfraternity Council releases the following statement.

Prior to the beginning of the 2021 spring semester, the IFC worked closely with staff in the Office of the Dean of Students who offered guidance to ensure that our recruitment policies were in compliance with the University's SEC-045 COVID policy. After a great deal of forethought and consideration, the IFC chose to move forward with an in-person recruitment process with stringent public health guidelines. Our recruitment policies required that any in-person events be limited to no more than 6 people, a mandate that masks were to be worn at all times except for eating, and strict adherence to social distancing. Before recruitment began, these restrictions were communicated in detail to multiple members of each IFC Fraternity. All chapters were encouraged to host virtual events, and in person rush events could only be held after filing with the IFC for special approval by the IFC Governing Board to ensure that each planned small six person gathering followed University policy and city and state guidelines. We provided updates on these plans to staff in the Office of the Dean of Students to demonstrate our transparency and commitment to full compliance with University gathering policy. Additionally, the IFC installed an immediate adjudication mechanism which allowed us to hear and sanction reports of misconduct the same day we received a report with specific details of the violation.

During the recruitment process the IFC Governing Board met every night to re-emphasize the seriousness of the situation to chapter presidents, and to address reports of COVID policy violations. Some reports were preemptive and allowed the Governing Board to shut down events that would have broken policy before they happened. Student accountability requires individuals to bring violations of the policy described above to our attention. You can report specific violations to the IFC President, Andrew Huffman (ash4ew@virginia.edu) and to the University using [Just Report It](#) or the [community portal](#).

Going forward, the IFC remains committed to stopping the spread of COVID-19 and complying with all University guidelines, including the recent ban on all in person gatherings. We will conduct all new member activities virtually until small gatherings are again permitted by the University. The Governing Board will continue to process and investigate all allegations of non-compliance as they are reported.