



October 29, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

We wanted to share with you this recent message that was sent to students from Steve Bisese, vice president for student development. As we hope to continue our successful semester, even amidst the rapid increases in cases across the country and the uptick in positive cases on our campus, we think Steve's communication reinforces the important need for our students to demonstrate careful and continued attention to protecting each other and our web.

Sincerely,

David Hale
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Jeffrey Legro
Executive Vice President and Provost

Dear Students,

I am so proud of all you have accomplished this semester. I am writing to remind you of our shared responsibility to protect our web as we enter the final weeks of our on-campus semester, especially this Halloween weekend.

Over the last two weeks we have seen an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases among students, some of which are connected to small social gatherings where students did not wear masks or maintain 6 feet of physical distance. This experience proves that we cannot become complacent. We must continue to follow our health and safety protocols, wear masks, maintain physical distance, and avoid unapproved gatherings, including this weekend.

Traditional gatherings that come with celebrating Halloween simply cannot happen. Such gatherings would expose our community to the risk of COVID-19 transmission and jeopardize our collective health.

Here is what we are asking you to do to protect our web and enable us to finish this semester in person:

- Avoid attending parties or social gatherings, other than approved events happening on campus;

- Do not go to bars, restaurants, or off-campus houses to celebrate Halloween; and
- Avoid using alcohol or drugs, which can cloud judgement and increase risky behaviors.

It is also important for you to contact the Student Health Center if you are having any symptoms and to be honest with the Student Health Center physicians about your activities. Under our interim conduct policies, information shared with the Student Health Center, contact tracers, or the University's Rapid Response Team will not be used as evidence in any conduct hearing.

The University is offering several safe and fun ways to celebrate Halloween. Please do take part. The list of activities can be found here: [UR Halloween Activities](#).

We know that so many of you are really trying to keep our campus safe, and we are deeply grateful, but we need everyone to recommit to this effort. Rumors of off-campus parties are already swirling, and we want to be clear that we will not hesitate to impose our student conduct actions to sanction those who put our community at risk. Some of the violations, such as hosting and attending gatherings, come with harsh penalties that include suspension for the remainder of this semester and all of the spring semester.

We are now into the final stretch before Thanksgiving. I know you are tired. I'm tired, too, which makes me all the more proud of our work together thus far. Let's keep up our good work this weekend and throughout the remaining weeks on campus this fall.

Sincerely,

Steve Bisese
Vice President for Student Development