



Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

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A statement concerning safety precautions during the COVID-19 pandemic
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To the APIDA students and Virginia Tech community:

We, the Asian American Student Union (AASU) at Virginia Tech, representing thirteen organizations, write this letter to address the importance of practicing health safety precautions during this pandemic. It has been brought to our immediate attention that some members of our constituent organizations have tested positive for COVID-19. Consequently, exposure to these individuals have both directly and indirectly impacted the health of those around them. As a result, we write this letter not only to reiterate the severity of this pandemic but to emphasize the critical value of following mandated Coronavirus Disease 2019 guidelines by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>) or from the World Health Organization (https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1). Seeing as there is currently no vaccine for COVID-19 at this moment, it is crucial that we remember to do our due diligence in practicing adequate safety measures. Abiding by these guidelines not only ensures your safety, or your friend's safety, but your community's safety as well.

We strongly discourage non-essential gatherings and any in-person events that can be facilitated virtually. Please ensure that you and your members are complying with the following regulations listed by Vice President of Student Affairs, Frank Shushok Jr:

1. "There should not be ANY non-university sanctioned/monitored gatherings, on or off campus, larger than 15 people."
2. "Face masks/coverings should be worn at all social gatherings, with 6-foot physical distancing. Individuals should remove themselves from situations where this is not possible."
3. "Independent outdoor exercise is the only exception to the obligation of the face covering requirement."



Failure to follow these regulations and expectations will result in immediate interim suspension and removal from campus housing. The Asian American Student Union, along with our constituents, have taken a firm initiative devise plans to either create new virtual events or adapt events to a virtual format.

The following resources are available to mitigate exposure to COVID-19, to report any large gatherings, and concerns related to COVID-19:

Off campus: call Blacksburg PD (540-443-1400)

Residence hall: contact your Resident Advisor

On campus: call VTPD (540-382-4343)

General concerns: send to the Dean of Students Office  bit.ly/dosreporting

VT Ready Page for Students: <https://ready.vt.edu/for-students.html#hygiene>

Dashboard Tracking: <https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2020/08/unirel-dashboard-aug30.html>

Hokie Ready App: <https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2020/08/unirel-hokieryadyapp.html>

How To Report and Emergency: <https://emergency.vt.edu/ready/report.html>

Testing Students for Covid: https://healthcenter.vt.edu/covid19_testing_qa.html

Student Code of Conduct: https://studentconduct.vt.edu/fall_2020.html

Covid Testing, Tracing, and Case Management:

https://vt.edu/content/dam/vtnews_vt_edu/documents/testing-tracing-plan.pdf

Dean of Students: <https://dos.vt.edu>

Lastly, if you are experiencing symptoms or think you may have been exposed to COVID-19, please seek testing and self-quarantine for 14 days. There are many options available for Virginia Tech students that offer testing at little to no cost such as Schiffert Health Center on campus, MinuteClinic at CVS in Radford and Roanoke, and MedExpress in Christiansburg and Salem.

The Asian American Student Union at Virginia Tech would like to emphasize the importance of continuing to follow social distancing regulations. Although these are difficult and unprecedented times, we appreciate the members of our constituent organizations for their efforts in slowing the spread of COVID-19.

In Peace and Solidarity,

The Asian American Student Union Executive Board