Q: Are chapter meetings with 30 members allowed in a house?

A: All chapters are encouraged to hold virtual meetings at least until early October. Even after October, it is encouraged organizations have virtual meetings regardless of size, but yes, after Oct. 5th a chapter can register an in-person meeting with or less members as long as physical distancing and ask requirements are met.

Q: What about outdoor activities on the patio?

A: If residents of a house are on the patio, that is allowed. Social distancing and masks apply, as needed. If meals are held on a patio, for meal plan members only, that is okay as long as distancing and numbers lower than 30 apply. Guest and groups more than 30 or any groups not following social distancing protocol and masks are not permitted. (Should we say something about a community of roommates)?

Q: Can you explain why an event after Oct 5 cannot have food or beverage? Can a member bring his/her own?

A: This is not a Cornell University decision, rather a Tompkins County Health Department regulation.

Q: Please clarify, no food or drinks can be served at events?

A: No food at any events, activities, or meetings. The only exception being meal plan meals.

Q: An in-person chapter meeting with 31 attendees is not allowed but 29 is? And those 29 cannot wear masks and socially distance and eat during the meeting? Even if the chapter brings individually prepared and packaged meals for the members to attend?

A: Yes, the Cornell requirement is 30 so anything less than that is accepted, and all those members must wear a mask, remain physically distant, and are only allowed meal plan meals.
Q: One of the items listed as an event that would need to be registered was lawn games. What if a few (much less than 30) members living in the house would like to do something outside like play football? Is that something that would not be permitted until the 5th?

A: No activities that include close or physical contact

Examples: contact sports, dancing with partners, live action role-play, etc.

However, residents of a house throwing a football is okay. Cornhole is okay, ladder ball, etc. As long as it is not a contact sport, does not involve guests or crowds more than 30.

Q: Can you clarify your comment about brothers living outside the house coming for a meal and having to “register”? as a guest

A: Any member that does not physically live in the organization facility is considered a guest. It is recommended that there be some kind of sign in and out process in the case of a need for contact tracing. However, residents of the meal plan may eat at the house.

Q: Can we have more than 30 people eating at the house if we do outdoor seating as well

Q: What about programs required by national HQ, that require a certain attendance? Like risk management?

A: National organizations are able to provide virtual programming. OSFL can help with the conversation as needed.

Q: Have the rules for fall rush been worked out?

A: We will hold a training for recruitment/intake prior to the start of the recruitment season. You can expect it to be heavily virtual.

Q: What will be the initiation deadline?

A: We will share when determined.
Q: Are you recommending that all gatherings, of less than 30, be conducted outside? I'm talking about members living in a House together.

A: It is encouraged all gatherings be virtual if possible, but if not, then use whatever space is adequate enough to maintain physical distance standards

Q: So, can there be a gathering outside as a social event?

A: No events can occur until Oct. 5th when they can be registered. There is a social moratorium on events with alcohol. Prior to October 5th it would need to be residents or meal plan members eating or being outdoors with social distancing precautions, masks, and less than 30 people.

Q: What happens if 15-20 brothers who live in the house want to relax (social distancing) outside on a porch or a deck. Is that a problem?

A: As long as all physical distancing standards are being met, it should not be a problem.

Q: I believe that we all want to balance in-person events and human interaction with responsible distancing and limiting 10 minutes of close contact without a mask. Is an outdoor cookout/barbecue with say 25 members and piggy-backing a chapter meeting an event that needs to be registered? I am unclear how this is an event that leads to increased risk of virus transmission and a responsible manner to manage this pandemic.

A: If meal plan brothers eat together with groups of less than 30 and follow distancing guidelines, they can eat outside. Meetings should be virtual prior to October 5th as they cannot be registered.

Q: What is Cornell Dining doing about food service?

A: Detailed information about Cornell Dining can be found at their website.