

Social Gatherings: University Policies and Practices

Sept. 18, 2020

To the campus community:

We would like to thank the many members of our community who have been #EMUSAFE and have complied with the [Safe Return-to-Campus Plan](#).

Given the relationship between social gatherings and the spread of COVID-19, this email outlines the University's policies and practices related to social gatherings. The University's policy is based on restrictions imposed by the State of Michigan and Washtenaw County to limit social gatherings. **Please save and refer back to this email as needed.**

Indoor student social gatherings on campus will not be permitted due to the restrictions of Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-160 that set a limit of ten (10) or fewer people, and the necessity to repurpose many campus spaces for class meetings.

In an effort to provide students with opportunities for interacting with the campus community, while still adhering to the guidelines and restrictions necessary to keep everyone as healthy as possible, **outdoor student gatherings** on campus are permitted with the stipulations listed below.

1. Per the Washtenaw County Health Department Public Health Emergency Order issued and effective on August 20, 2020, no more than 25 persons are permitted to gather together outdoors.
2. All social gathering attendees must maintain at least six (6) feet of physical distance from one another at all times.
3. All social gathering attendees must wear a face covering that covers their mouth and nose at all times.
4. Gatherings are permitted between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. only.
5. Outdoor spaces are first come, first served. Groups may not use a space that is already occupied.
6. Groups must maintain a distance of 25 feet from building entrances.
7. The use of sound amplification is not permitted to avoid disturbing others who are utilizing nearby outdoor spaces, and to avoid disrupting classes in progress (except in the case of accommodation for those who are hearing impaired).
8. The use of grills or open flames is prohibited.
9. Groups are responsible for cleaning up any trash and ensuring that no items are left behind.
10. Gatherings of Student Organizations must be communicated to the Organization's advisor in advance.

Outdoor spaces include such areas as: the Student Center Patio, Lakehouse Amphitheatre, University Park Pavillion, parking lots, and other University courtyards and green space.

The University requests that when students choose to socially gather outside, they identify someone to be responsible for keeping a list of those present, so that contact tracing is possible in the event that an attendee tests positive for COVID-19.

The University reserves the right to disband gatherings that do not meet the above criteria. This policy is subject to change. The most updated policy can be found at <https://www.emich.edu/campuslife/student-orgs/resources.php> under the policies heading.

Compliance

We expect every member of the campus community to follow these standards as part of our community commitment to safety. Students who do not comply with the University's policies are subject to the University's [Code of Community Responsibility](#). Questions regarding enforcement involving students should be directed to the Office of Wellness & Community Responsibility at emu_owcr@emich.edu or 734-487-2157. Employees who do not comply with University policies are subject to disciplinary action. Questions regarding enforcement involving employees should be directed to University Human Resources at hr_employment@emich.edu.

We all have a role in the fight against COVID-19. Please "[Take the Pledge. Stop the Spread.](#)" and do your part to keep #EMUSafe everyday by respecting others and supporting the health and well-being of the EMU community.