

Dear colleagues,

As local and state health guidelines around COVID-19 continue to evolve, we are writing to clarify and reiterate the guidance for in-person gatherings other than scheduled classes, which are exempt from these limitations.

Please continue to limit gatherings outside of classes to no more than 10 people, until further notice. While the State of North Carolina and the City and County of Durham have changed their ordinances for group gatherings, everyone should continue to follow Duke policies and instructions, *which may be more restrictive than state or local policies*.

Like you, we miss the regular interactions with our colleagues and friends, passing on Abele Quad or in the hallways after meetings or classes, or attending research talks or performances. And we know how important it is for you to have opportunities to build personal relationships with students, and how important those faculty connections are to students' success. We also know for a fact that limiting the size of gatherings, wearing masks, being outdoors, and maintaining a distance of 6 feet between all participants are well-known means of reducing risk and virus transmission, and have been successful so far in protecting the safety of the Duke community.

As a reminder, as noted in the August 7 [Faculty expectations and recommendations](#) document sent to all faculty, all in-person classes and related educational activities must be held on campus (or previously authorized Duke space) and observe spacing and safety guidelines. Holding classes or required activities off campus, such as at faculty homes, is not permitted during the pandemic, as it would be impossible for the university to ensure that such spaces adhere to the recommended health and safety standards.

If you are considering an educational or student-related social event outside of classes (limited to no more than 10 people, socially distanced, masked), we ask that you request approval from the [travel committee](#) that examines specific situations and evaluates the safety of planned transportation. If you are considering an on-campus event (outside of required class time) you must request approval from the [university events oversight group](#).

In addition, all Duke-related events, to include performances, gatherings, talks, etc., must also follow the current health and safety guidelines with regard to size limitations, masking and distancing.

As with other phases of our university and campus reopening, any changes that are made to guidance around group gatherings will be communicated to you and posted on [Duke United](#).

Please continue to take care of yourselves and others, and reach out to the [Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Advancement](#) with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Sally Kornbluth, Provost and Jo Rae Wright University Professor  
Jennifer Francis, Executive Vice Provost and Professor of Business Administration