

Fall 2021 Rules for Student Groups (Updated August 26, 2021)

This guidance governs **in-person activity that can be organized and/or funded by your student organization in Fall 2021**. Guidance is based on current university and city/state policies and has been communicated to the University community via the [Public Health Guidance website](#). If these policies change during the semester, the guidelines for student organizations may also change. In cases where these sets of guidance are not aligned, deference should be given to the [University public health guidance](#).

- **Student group activities (for all undergraduate, graduate, and professional students) may be held in-person, both on and off-campus.**
  - While groups are eager to return to pre-pandemic operations, student organizations are encouraged to be mindful that not all members of the Penn community will be comfortable with, or able to engage in, fully in-person activity. To that end:
    - Masks are required indoors in public and shared spaces for ALL, including those who are fully vaccinated.
      - We support mask wearing whether you're unvaccinated, protecting someone you love, or simply because you feel more comfortable.
    - Reduce the size of activities when possible.
    - Continue hosting events outdoors when possible.
    - There are no current policies around food and gatherings but there are best practices.
      - The Penn community should prioritize outdoor gatherings and meals, over indoor gatherings and meals.
      - Pre-packaged or boxed meals should be prioritized over buffet. Social distancing when eating is encouraged.
      - Hand sanitizer should be made widely available.
    - Know who attends your events.
      - Tracking who participates in your in-person activities is useful if needed for contact tracing.
    - Student groups may host guests on campus. Guidance for guests on campus can be found here: <https://coronavirus.upenn.edu/content/visitors>
      - Any invited guests participating in University programs must be vaccinated.
      - Groups must keep a record of all guests who participate in programs, in case it is needed for contact tracing.
      - There are special considerations for activities that include children 12 and under. If your group typically hosts events with children on or off-campus, please consult [University and City guidance](#).
- **Student groups may not:**
  - Collect (ie: create a document/form requesting this information) the vaccination status of members.
  - Require students to show a negative Covid test before participating in activities.
    - Instead, groups may require the use of PennOpen Pass and the requirement of a green pass to participate in activities.

- Force people to remove their masks.
- **Additional Considerations:**
  - Consider how hybrid modes of meeting/interacting can be utilized. Virtual activities are very inclusive and afford your members with some opportunity for self-care instead of running across campus all day. Decide which standing meetings, activities that regularly conflict with mealtimes, or deliberations that run late into the night might be held virtually.
  - Facilities on campus will have their own rules of operation and may vary from site to site. Groups must follow all rules and expectations set forth by the facilities in which they are hosting activities.
  - Groups are no longer required to submit the event approval form or the food purchase request form before they can begin planning events, however, they must consult their financial coordinator at the beginning of the planning process to ensure compliance with Penn policies and best practices. Student organizations should continue to work with their financial coordinator/financial center early and often during the event planning process to spend money in accordance with the current [financial policies](#).
  - Organizations may resume travel related to the mission of their organization. Public health guidance will vary by country, state and locality. It is the responsibility of students to be aware of public health guidance wherever they travel.
    - Traveling remains a risky activity for COVID-19. All travelers, even those who are fully vaccinated, should continue to wear a mask while traveling.
- **There are resources available to support student organizations in their efforts to host safer activities.**
  - PennOpen Pass remains an important public health tool. We encourage everyone to enroll in PennOpen Pass, our daily COVID-19 symptom and exposure tracker. Those who are unvaccinated are required to use PennOpen Pass daily to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread in the community.
    - While groups may NOT ask to see a negative COVID test, you can require a green PennOpen Pass for participation in events.
  - Penn Event Registration Process formally hosted through the Office of Alcohol and Other Drugs will resume in Fall 2021. Further information about how to register and host a social event on or off-campus can be found on the [University Life webpage](#).
  - Students will retain access to their individual Zoom account provided through the University.
    - Additionally, the Office of Student Affairs will maintain licenses for free access to Zoom Webinars and Blue Jeans Events, which can host up to 1000 participants at a time. Please be in touch with OSA to request access to these resources on an event-by-event basis.