



August 21, 2020

Yellow Jacket Students,

We are aware of off-campus parties that West Virginia State University students have recently attended or, sadly, are planning on attending in the future. Additionally, it has been brought to our attention that masks are not being worn at these functions and that social distance is not being maintained. We as an Institution will not tolerate behaviors that violate local and State of West Virginia public safety orders as well as our own health and safety guidelines and protocols.

Students who are attending these parties and engaging in these behaviors are putting our entire campus community at risk. Again, failure to follow our health and safety policies or local and state and public health orders, which include a prohibition of social gatherings of more than 25 people, could result in a charge and sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct. Charges may also be levied against any establishment and/or individual(s) outside the University who violate local and state public health orders.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that perhaps we have individuals amongst us who are not serious about being a part of the Yellow Jacket Nation to continue their studies and should re-evaluate their reasons for being here at West Virginia State University.

Reports of inappropriate behaviors and activities will be addressed. Additionally, understand that there WILL be consequences for those who refuse to do the right thing and abide by the stipulations and expectations that have been shared via many WVSU voices.

It is important to know that any student brought to the attention of the office of the Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs regarding Student Conduct for failing to follow WVSU's health and safety policies as it relates to social gatherings, or the state and local public health orders, will face the following:

1. Initial failure to comply will result in probation and the requirement of an educational activity. This probation will be reflected on a student's disciplinary record which is made available to future employers upon request.
2. A second failure to comply will result in a violation of probation. The student will be referred to a hearing where sanctions could include suspension or expulsion from the University.

We take the health and safety of our campus community very seriously. The national news is full of stories about universities and colleges that have recently moved to offering remote instruction only due to students not following the health and safety guidelines. Those behaviors led to an alarming increase in the number of COVID-19 cases on those campuses and the eventual closing of on-campus instruction.

I know that we can and will do better!

Thank you in advance and GO STATE!

Joseph R. Oden, Jr.
Assistant Vice President