

Interfraternity Council  
Michigan State University  
556 E Circle Drive



### **For Immediate Release**

The Fraternity & Sorority Life (FSL) community at Michigan State University understands the importance of stopping the spread of COVID-19 and supports the work necessary to keep Ingham County safe. We have shifted activities to strictly virtual formats to keep groups separated. This includes all virtual Zoom Recruitment events where “Potential New Members” are prohibited from entering chapter houses. In addition, “New Member Orientation” (proactive seminars for New Members) has been moved to Zoom as well.

In an effort to support safety, on Sunday, even before this emergency order was issued, MSU Interfraternity Council met with Chapter Presidents to discuss a re-vote to suspend all Type I, II, and IV social events. The initial vote concerning social events occurred before students were told that they are not to return to campus and classes were going to be completely virtual, even though the reporting on this vote took place many weeks after. The re-vote was initiated after IFC Chapter Presidents expressed additional concerns regarding the spread of COVID-19 the safety of their members and the surrounding community. **That vote has passed unanimously (28 votes in favor and 0 against) and is being instituted Sunday, September 20th.**

Despite the FSL communities efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19, on 9/14/2020, Ingham County Health Department released a mandate naming a vast majority of Fraternities and Sororities on immediate residential lockdown without any prior notification or discussion. This order seemingly disregards the efforts that were put in place by our community, **punishes FSL community members morwho have followed all guidelines**, and ignores the students not involved in FSL who have participated in non-social distancing activities.

In response to this order, the FSL community has participated in a Q&A panel session with Linda Vail, Ingham County Public Health Officer; David Weismantel, M.D., University Physician; Philip Strong, Interim Dean of Students; and Adenike Shoyinka, MD, MPH, Ingham County Medical Director, to help address and answer the many questions and concerns our community has. Moving forward, we ask Ingham County to be more transparent with our community and to bring FSL community leaders into the conversation before issuing an immediate order.