The University's return to campus experience during the COVID-19 pandemic is grounded in the promotion of the health and safety of everyone in our community. Community is an action; taking care of ourselves, each other, and this place requires the full attention and daily dedication of everyone. The University is following guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and the Virginia Department of Health, and the strength of our community, the Web, depends on every Spider to cooperate with these guidelines. This cooperation is essential to the continuation of residential education during the 2020-2021 academic year, as well as the overall health of the Web and all Spiders.

This document describes the interim student conduct policies intended to promote the health and safety of the community. These interim policies are covered under the Standards of Student Conduct, Article III, Section B (6) (f): Violation of University policies or College rules or regulations including, but not limited to, those governing University housing. These policies apply to students who are taking classes on campus and either living in University housing or at an off campus location. These interim policies apply to individual students; please refer to the University’s Physical Distancing Framework for information regarding guidelines for University-sponsored events. These interim policies apply to conduct that occurs on or off campus, as stated in Article III, Section (A) of the Standards.

A. Resolution of Alleged Violations
Under the authority of the Vice President for Student Development as described in Article II (A) of the Standards, all alleged violations of these interim COVID policies will be resolved administratively. Decisions on responsibility and, if the student is found responsible, sanctions will be determined by the Conduct Officer with no option for a Student Conduct Board.

In situations where a student is accused of an alleged violation of the Interim Student Conduct Policies and an alleged violation of Article III, Section B of the Standards of Student Conduct, the matter will be resolved under the guidelines outlined below.

B. Appeals
If a student is found responsible, they will have the right to appeal the decision. Appeals shall be directed to the appropriate Appellate Administrator by 5:00pm on the second business day following the decision of the Conduct Officer.

1. If a student is found responsible for a violation which occurs within the residential communities (residence halls, University Forest Apartments, and Gateway Village Apartments), the Appellate Administrator shall be the Director of Residence Life & Housing.

2. If a student is found responsible for a violation which occurs outside the residential communities, the Appellate Administrator shall be the student’s College Dean.

The Appellate Administrator shall schedule a meeting with the student within two (2) business days of the receipt of the appeal, unless there is good cause for a reasonable extension of this time period. A decision on the appeal will be made within two (2) business days of the meeting between the Appellate Administrator and the student. The decision of the Appellate Administrator is final.
C. Immediate Interim Action
Immediate interim actions, such as quarantine, or temporary removal from campus, may be imposed until formal conduct proceedings are initiated if it is determined that there is a health and safety risk to the community.

1. Immediate interim actions may be continued at the discretion of the Conduct Officer.
2. Immediate interim actions are not subject to appeal.

D. Conduct Policies and Sanctions
1. The following outlines the specific conduct that is covered under these interim policies, as well as the sanction that will likely be imposed if a student is found responsible for a violation of an interim policy.
   a. Repeated violations shall be subject to a more severe sanction than listed in these interim policies.
   b. A student's prior conduct history may impact sanctioning (e.g. a student who is currently on conduct probation may face a more severe sanction than described below).
   c. A sanction of mandated remote learning and temporary removal from campus housing may be imposed in addition to other sanctions or as a stand-alone sanction.
   d. The Conduct Officer and Appellate Administrator have reasonable discretion to impose the sanction that they determine is appropriate based on the facts and circumstances of a particular case.

2. Prohibited Conduct for which a Suspension will likely be imposed: The conduct listed in this section 2 is prohibited and will generally carry a sanction of suspension from the University. The time period of a suspension is typically a semester or full academic year, but can be set for any duration.
   a. Hosting gatherings or parties (more than 10 people in total) in an on-campus or off-campus residence or other location.
      i. If a gathering or party occurs at an on- or off-campus residence, all students who reside in, own, lease, or rent the property shall be held accountable unless they can provide compelling evidence that they did not attend and were not involved in the planning of such gathering or party.
   b. Failure to remain in quarantine or isolation until officially released by a University official.
   c. Failure to follow directives from University officials regarding leaving isolation or quarantine or relocating to finish their quarantine or isolation at an off-campus location.
   d. Failure to promptly disclose to the Student Health Center the results of any positive COVID-19 test conducted at an off-campus location.

3. Prohibited Conduct for which Housing Removal will likely be imposed: The conduct listed in this Section 3 is prohibited and will generally carry a sanction of removal from University housing. A student who is removed from housing may also have their status changed to that of a remote student. The period of removal shall be for the remainder of the academic year. Students who are removed from housing may also be given an additional sanction of Conduct Probation.
a. Violation of the visitor policy set forth in the University's Physical Distancing Framework.

b. Hosting gatherings or parties in an on campus residence that are a disturbance to the community or are determined by the University to present a health and safety risk.
   i. All students who are assigned to the residence shall be held accountable unless they can provide compelling evidence that they did not attend and were not involved in the planning of such gathering or party.

4. Prohibited Conduct for which Conduct Probation will likely be imposed: The conduct listed in this Section 4 is prohibited and will generally carry a sanction of conduct probation, which permits the student to remain at the University on a probationary status. During the period of probation, if the student is found responsible for further violations, the student may be subject to suspension or permanent separation from the University. Students are prohibited from studying abroad in any semester for which they are on conduct probation for all or part of the semester. The time period of probation is typically a semester or full academic year.
   a. Attending a gathering or party (more than 10 people in total), whether on- or off-campus.
   b. Failure to attend prevalence or other mandated testing.
   c. Failure to fully and truthfully cooperate with all contact tracing efforts conducted by University officials or the Virginia Department of Health. To be considered to have fully and truthfully cooperated with all contact tracing efforts, students are required to:
      i. Keep a daily lists of their close contacts, defined as any anyone with whom a student has been within 6 feet for at least a cumulative 15 minutes over a 24 hour period and to share these lists with authorized case investigators or contact tracers upon request;
      ii. Respond promptly to any call, text, or email from a case investigator or contact tracer; and
      iii. Truthfully share information about potential close contacts and any social gathering or party the student may have attended with a case investigator or contact tracer.

5. Prohibited Conduct for which a Disciplinary Warning will likely be imposed: The conduct listed in this Section 5 is prohibited and will generally carry a sanction of disciplinary warning, which is a written notice that a continuation or repetition of prohibited conduct will be grounds for more serious sanctions.
   a. Failure to read and sign the Healthy Web Compact in a timely fashion.
   b. Failure to monitor health symptoms and temperature daily and to complete the online health monitoring form.
   c. Failure to wear a face covering in accordance with the University’s policy on Face Coverings on Campus. Face coverings are required in outdoor settings where physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain, and in all buildings including classrooms, common areas within residence halls, and dining facilities.
      i. Students are prohibited from removing face coverings to eat or drink while in class. Students with a specific documented medical accommodations from Disability Services are permitted to leave the class for a short period in order to eat or drink.
      ii. Faculty or course instructors may require a student to leave the classroom for non-compliance with face covering requirement.
iii. Students are not required to wear a face covering while eating or drinking in a dining facility.

d. Failure to comply with the University’s **Physical Distancing Framework** restrictions on travel (beyond the greater Richmond metro area). Compliance with the Physical Distancing Framework includes, but it not limited to the actions listed below.
   
i. Students who wish to request an exception for emergency or other essential reasons must contact the appropriate dean and complete the travel registry.
   
ii. In accordance with the Yellow Stage of the Physical Distancing Framework, students may request an exception for University-sponsored travel and must contact the appropriate dean and complete the travel registry.
   
iii. Students who travel must wear a cloth face covering and remain at least six feet away from others to the fullest extent possible; if they have been exposed, can’t maintain public health guidelines, or aren’t sure if they have been exposed, they must contact the Student Health Center before returning.

e. Failure to comply with the University’s **Physical Distancing Framework** restrictions on leaving campus (within the greater Richmond metro area). Compliance with the Physical Distancing Framework includes, but it not limited to the actions listed below
   
i. In the Red Stage, students living on campus should remain on campus unless required to leave campus (**for example**, a doctor’s appointment, off-campus employment, picking up prescriptions, etc.). Students may, however, on occasion visit with parents, guardians, or close family members in a local hotel or have a meal in a restaurant with parents, guardians or close family members only.
   
ii. Students who leave campus must wear a cloth face covering and remain at least six feet away from others to the fullest extent possible or follow state public health guidelines for a specific location; if they have been exposed, can’t maintain public health guidelines, or aren’t sure if they have been exposed, they must contact the Student Health Center immediately.

**E. Exceptions**

1. If a student is charged with an alleged violation of the interim conduct policies outlined in section D above, the University will not pursue a conduct charge against the student if they are rendering assistance to someone who may have experienced sexual misconduct, students reporting possible sexual misconduct, the Complainant, witnesses, and other individuals participating in an investigation or hearing.

2. If a student is charged with an alleged violation of the interim conduct policies outlined in section D above, the University will not pursue a conduct charge against the student if they are rendering urgent or emergent assistance to someone in medical (psychological, psychiatric, or physical) distress.