

**Damon Sims**  
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October 29, 2020

Dear All--

Because the overwhelming majority of students at University Park have consistently followed the public health guidance about masking, social distancing, hand hygiene, and avoiding large gatherings, we are still in-person three-quarters of the way through that part of the semester leading to Thanksgiving break. We could not be prouder of the response by most students to these trying circumstances. Only three weeks remain before the semester goes entirely to remote learning. But for us to get to November 20 as planned requires continued effort. We are writing to ask you to do the right thing.

Halloween and an Ohio State night game this Saturday threaten our continued success. Behaviors last weekend, when some students gathered in large groups without masks or social distancing, are exactly what cannot be repeated. Those activities threaten not only our continuation of in-person learning, they threaten students' ability to return home after November 20. They may even jeopardize the ability of students to avoid positive coronavirus tests before returning to in-person learning in January.

In short, if you are going to continue in-person at University Park and safely leave campus or town on November 20 and return next semester, you must avoid those behaviors that have always been most problematic in the midst of this growing pandemic. You must continue to wear face coverings. You must persist with social distancing. And you must avoid large gatherings.

Last weekend's troubling activities are under investigation by the State College and University Police. Students and student organizations have been suspended from the University for Covid-related violations already. We take the virus's threat to your health and wellbeing and the threat to the broader community very seriously, and we will not tolerate the refusal by others to do so.

All we ask is that you make good choices and encourage others to do the same. Discourage friends or family members from coming to town. The continued success of our return to in-person experiences hangs in the balance, and lives may depend on it. Please think about these concerns as we go into the weekend and through the days to come. Your continued responsible and vigilant action will be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,



Damon Sims  
Vice President for Student Affairs  
The Pennsylvania State University



Thomas Fountaine, II  
Manager  
State College Borough