August 18, 2020

Dear Students,

I am writing to follow up on previous messages sent regarding our health and safety protocols and on the Healthy Web Compact. Please remember, all students must review and e-sign the compact before coming to campus. We also recommend that students download and use the Virginia COVIDWISE app to assist with contact tracing efforts both on and off-campus.

The Healthy Web Compact outlines the importance of our collective commitment to making our campus as safe as possible. That commitment is shared by all students, faculty, and staff, and reflects our care not only for students, but for all members of our University and city. The health and safety of our entire campus and surrounding community is our highest priority.

Given this commitment, I want to be clear about the disciplinary consequences for violating the expectations laid out in the Healthy Web Compact. The university has developed a set of Interim Student Conduct Policies that outlines our expectations. These policies should be considered with the gathering numbers and regulations as outlined in the various color phases of the University’s Physical Distancing Framework. I will highlight a few of the more egregious violations given the consequences that could have significant implications.

If you host an a gathering that violates our safety protocols, either on or off-campus, you risk automatic suspension from Richmond Law for at least one semester. If you attend a gathering of this sort you are also at risk of disciplinary action. Other violations of our health and safety guidelines related to physical distancing, contact tracing, and the like could result in being put on formal conduct probationary status. Since these behaviors involve an immediate risk to the entire campus community, the University may also impose interim actions, such as quarantine, isolation, or revocation of campus privileges. All conduct violations must be reported on your character and fitness application for the bar exam, and could create bar eligibility issues.

Please consider this letter as your official notification about these guidelines, since a warning will not be given for a first offense for more significant violations.

My earnest hope is that we will not have to take any of these steps. Please contact me with any questions or concerns you have. And I trust each of us will exhibit care, concern, and support for one another during these difficult days. The strength of our community depends on each of us. Thank you for doing your part.

I wish you well in the few remaining days of summer, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Alex Sklut
Associate Dean of Students
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