

ALUMNAE CHAPTERS AND COVID-19

WHAT IS COVID-19?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)), on February 11, 2020 the World Health Organization announced an official name for the disease that is causing the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak, first identified in Wuhan China. The new name of this disease is coronavirus disease 2019, abbreviated as COVID-19. In COVID-19, 'CO' stands for 'corona,' 'VI' for 'virus,' and 'D' for disease. Formerly, this disease was referred to as "2019 novel coronavirus" or "2019-nCoV".

There are many types of human coronaviruses including some that commonly cause mild upper-respiratory tract illnesses. COVID-19 is a new disease, caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans. The name of this disease was selected following the World Health Organization (WHO) best practice external icon for naming of new human infectious diseases.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

My alumnae chapter has events planned, what should we do?

All alumnae chapters should consult [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) and local health department guidelines. On March 12, the CDC published guidelines on [mass gatherings](#). Alumnae chapters should [review these](#) as they are considering hosting events.

Gamma Phi Beta encourages members to practice social distancing in the new few weeks. Not just for your health, but for all that you encounter, including friends, family and sisters. If you do intend to hold an in-person gathering, please consider if your audience or your community is high risk.

Please consider moving to a virtual event. See more information below.

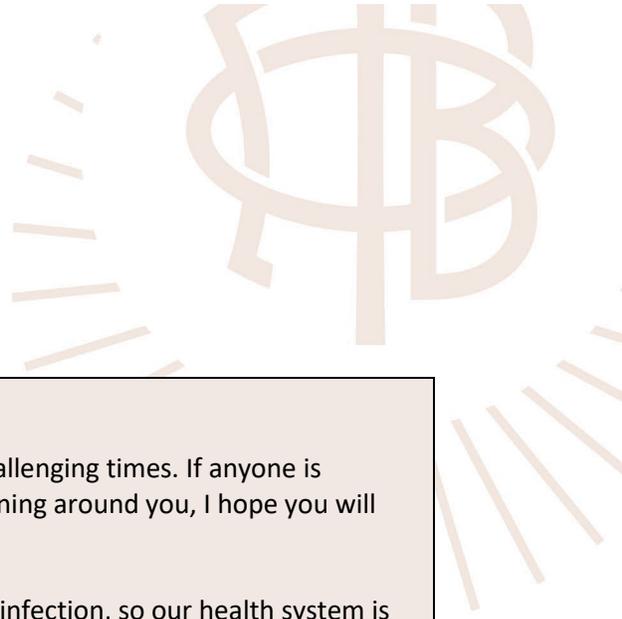
My alumnae chapter would like to cancel or postpone our event. What should we do?

For alumnae chapters looking to cancel or postpone events, chapters should communicate with members that the event has been cancelled (and if any plans are being made to host the activity in the future).

What options do we have to host events if we aren't meeting in person?

Consider hosting gatherings virtually using tools like Facebook Messenger group video chat, GoToMeeting, Google Hangouts, Zoom or other virtual conference programs. For more information on how to use these tools or ways to connect virtually, reach out to your alumnae chapter supervisor.

Reach out to sisters in the area to offer support and encouragement as members could begin to limit social contact by working from home or limiting trips. A sample communication is located on the following page.



Sisters:

Just thought I'd send out a little message to check-in. These are challenging times. If anyone is sequestered at home, or feeling apprehensive about what's happening around you, I hope you will reach out for support from your Gamma Phi Beta sisters.

Social distancing is one of the best ways to help reduce the rate of infection, so our health system is not overwhelmed, and we do not expose those most vulnerable to a greater risk. While we can't be together in person right now, we can get together virtually. If you're looking for a chance to connect with other, we invite you to join our virtual book club discussion next week!

Take good care, stay safe, stay well.

In IIKE,

How can Gamma Phi Beta members connect virtually with other sisters?

Many alumnae chapters use Facebook Groups to share communications and encouragement with sisters in their area. Chapters should continue to use social media throughout this time to engage alumnae members and keep sisters connected.

For members looking to connect with Gamma Phi Beta, follow the Sorority on social media or join a topical Facebook group around the following topics:

- [Members who are mothers](#)
- [STEM professionals](#)
- [Active duty and military veterans](#)
- [Members interested in wellness](#)

Who should I contact with additional questions?

If you have any questions about alumnae chapters and COVID-19, please contact Samantha Keltner Chief Experience Officer at skeltner@gammaphibeta.org.