

July 16, 2020

Dr. Sarah Van Orman, Chief Health Officer of USC, recently communicated in a [COVID-19 Health Alert](#) that a cluster of positive cases of COVID-19 among houses located on 28th Street has been identified and is being evaluated by USC Student Health and Keck Medicine of USC, in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. As of this writing, there are 26 confirmed positive cases; these patients are currently in self-isolation at home or are in the process of being privately transported to isolation.

I am writing to reaffirm that it is your responsibility to establish health and safety guidelines for your fraternity and sorority residences. Doing so is clearly in the best public health interests of your students, staff and the surrounding community.

These are challenging times for everyone, and we recognize your fraternities and sororities, along with every institution in the country, are being impacted by COVID-19. We recommend you work with medical experts and your legal counsel on the best path forward for your properties and the risks associated with various courses of action. You may also want to consider whether you would be eligible for compensation under the CARES Act by implementing health and safety measures.

We respectfully request that you consider:

- Reducing your occupancy to one student per bedroom, which is being implemented by USC Housing, consistent with Los Angeles County Department of Public Health draft guidelines for student residences.
- Setting aside a percentage of beds for students who may need to quarantine or self-isolate.
- Deferring or delaying your lease commitment dates to allow students the necessary time to make important decisions about returning to campus in the fall.
- If you have students who have already committed to leases with you, releasing them from their leases for the academic year or at least defer their lease commencement dates by a semester.

If a student organization fails to comply with University health and safety policies, it may result in probation, suspension, or loss of recognition by the University.

Should you become aware that a resident in your property is positively diagnosed with COVID-19, please call the University hotline at (213) 740-6291. With the continued increase in COVID-19 cases

in Los Angeles, all of us are in this together to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in Los Angeles and the Trojan community. Thank you in advance for your partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Winston B. Crisp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "W" and "C".

Winston B. Crisp

Vice President for Student Affairs