



COVID-19 Fraternity Guidelines

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COVID-19 FRATERNITY GUIDELINES

About

As we continue navigating the unprecedented and critical reality of this global pandemic, Beta Gamma Chi Fraternity wants to ensure that our regions and members are supported. We, therefore, would like to provide formal recommendations for continuing fraternity operations during this time. These are recommendations, not requirements. Regions should collectively determine the best course of action in accordance with their local health guidelines while keeping the health and safety of their members in mind.

With heightened media coverage, political discourse, and ever-changing data, we recognize that current conditions have been anxiety-inducing and may continue to be for the foreseeable future. Remember to be extra patient, caring, and kind with your fraternity siblings as we navigate this together. This is a time where our bond as a chosen family can truly show itself. Reaching out via text message, phone call, or through social media to remind each other that we care and support each other is more important than ever. Do not hesitate to call on any members of the leadership team—regional or executive—for emotional support or encouragement during this time.

If you have any questions regarding your region's operations during this time, please contact Executive Director Gerald Dessus.



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Follow Your Local Government

Beta Gamma Chi Fraternity's foremost recommendation is that all members and regions abide by the guidelines and mandates imposed by their local government. These guidelines may vary and may change rapidly as conditions continue to develop.

We have compiled links to websites for each member's local government for members to follow up on respective local coronavirus recommendations. If there is any conflict between the fraternity's recommendations and the local government's requirements, follow the local government.

<u>Alexandria, VA</u>	<u>New York City, NY</u>
<u>Atlanta, GA</u>	<u>Philadelphia, PA</u>
<u>Baltimore, MD</u>	<u>Springfield, PA</u>
<u>Benbrook, TX</u>	<u>Tallahassee, FL</u>
<u>Buffalo, NY</u>	<u>Trenton, NJ</u>
<u>Cambridge, MD</u>	<u>Tuscaloosa, AL</u>
<u>Columbus, OH</u>	<u>Union, NJ</u>
<u>Dayton, OH</u>	<u>Washington, D.C.</u>
<u>New Castle, DE</u>	<u>Willingsboro, NJ</u>



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National Guidelines

BETACON 2021

The fraternity's annual conference is scheduled for March 18, 2021, through March 21, 2021. The conference will take place at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel.

The fraternity will follow the requirements set forth by the City of Baltimore for in-person meetings. Members will be made aware of all safety requirements and plans at least two months in advance of the conference. Furthermore, a contingency plan for the conference will be released in January 2021.

Committee Meetings

Because each committee has members from different regions, all meetings should continue to be held virtually through the fraternity's Zoom account. Additional committee business should be conducted remotely through email, Workplace by Facebook, or on [The Portal](#).

Executive Meetings

The Board of Directors shall conduct meetings virtually through the fraternity's Zoom account. Additional legislative and advisory business should be conducted remotely through email.

The National Supreme Council shall use a hybrid model to conduct meetings. Planning meetings and leadership development should occur in-person once every three months, beginning July. These meetings shall take place in Baltimore, MD, or Philadelphia, PA. All in-person meetings are optional and must follow the requirements set forth by the local government. Additionally, all participants are required to wear masks for the duration of the meeting or training and must sign the risk and liability waiver located on [The Portal](#).

When planning meetings are not being conducted, the National Supreme Council shall conduct its monthly meetings virtually through the fraternity's Zoom account. Any additional executive business should be conducted remotely through email or other systems provided by the fraternity, such as Google for Nonprofits, Wix, or Workplace by Facebook.

Financial Development

Given the financial burden that our members and supporters may be experiencing, the fraternity has made the following recommendations.

When widespread stay-at-home orders are put in place, the fraternity will provide members with an option to receive refunds for their monthly membership dues. The Board of Directors will continue to monitor developments regarding stay-at-home orders across regions to determine when financial relief is necessary.

The fraternity will not conduct regional or national fundraisers during this time; active solicitation of donations has been discontinued. This does not include hyperlinking donation information in email signatures or email campaigns. Fundraising efforts will resume in November 2020.



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National Events

For the foreseeable future, the fraternity will continue to host national events virtually through social media platforms and systems such as Zoom. National events include any event that is not hosted by a region.

New Member Education

Unless a significant portion of membership candidates are clustered within a 30-mile radius, New Member Education classes, interest meetings, interviews, and events will be conducted virtually.

We have a strategic advantage over other organizations because we have offered virtual New Member Education classes as an alternative for three years. Therefore, we have the systems and resources in place to continue producing successful membership classes.

However, in-person Crossing Ceremonies will be conducted for both the 2020 and 2021 new member classes. Attendance will be strongly encouraged for members of the 2021 new member class.

General Assembly

All annual general assemblies, including the fraternity town hall and the State of the Brotherhood Address, will be conducted virtually through Zoom. Recordings of all general assemblies will be made available on our private Facebook group and on The Portal.



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Regional Guidelines

Autonomous Planning

We encourage regions to use their autonomy to make decisions that best meet the needs of their members. Regional staff should develop a plan for hybrid operations—a mix of virtual and in-person meetings and events.

Events and Philanthropy Projects

Regions are still responsible for hosting events, professional development opportunities, and philanthropy projects for their members and the community at large.

For in-person events, the fraternity recommends strictly following guidelines instituted by the local government regarding large gatherings. Additionally, all fraternity-related functions must require the wearing of face masks and should be held outdoors when possible. Furthermore, the fraternity requires all event attendees to sign the risk and liability waiver located on [The Portal](#).

Regions are also responsible for hosting an annual retreat, conference, workshop, or other professional development for their members. Such events can be hosted virtually or in-person.

Regional Business

If a region is located in an area where it is unsafe for members to conduct monthly meetings and other business in person, regional staff should determine a virtual alternative that is most convenient for their members. The fraternity recommends Zoom for video conferencing and Workplace by Facebook for virtual collaboration.

If a region has the capability to safely convene in-person, the fraternity encourages outdoor meetings in spaces that are not heavily populated and are conducive to social distancing. If a region chooses to transition back to in-person operations, regional staff must release safety guidelines for all members to adhere to. Recommendations must meet the requirements set by the local government.

Regions are not permitted to cancel or postpone meetings or other operational duties due to the pandemic. If a region's staff need alternative suggestions, they should contact Executive Director Gerald Dessus.

Responsibilities, Dues, and Obligations

Active members are expected to continue upholding their obligations to the fraternity during this time. This includes, but is not limited to, participation in committees, region meetings, fulfilling leadership roles, and paying dues. Members who are unable to pay dues or meet other obligations should proactively contact the Director of Membership, Malcolm Richardson.



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Follow Best Practices

We acknowledge the disappointment that all members have had to experience throughout this pandemic. We also recognize that the guidelines we have provided may not be the most convenient. However, we hope all members understand the importance of these efforts in protecting and ensuring the safety of the most vulnerable members of our fraternity and the community at large. It goes without saying—please, act with integrity and abide by these guidelines.

We also encourage all members to continue following the best health practices—washing your hands, avoiding touching your face, wearing a mask in all public spaces and in-door spaces with people who are not members of your household, getting tested if you are sick, and self-quarantining for 14 days if you are diagnosed with the coronavirus.

Once again, please stay informed of your local government's recommendations and requirements.