

# ASSUMPTION OF THE RISKS

COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that has been declared a worldwide pandemic. COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus, meaning it has not been previously identified. Scientists are racing across the globe to learn more about this disease, however it is believed to spread through person-to-person contact, mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. A COVID-19 infection can result in severe illness, requiring hospitalization, admission to an intensive care unit, long-lasting or permanent new health conditions, and even death. Many teenagers and young adults mistakenly believe that they are not at risk for a severe COVID-19 infection and that they will only have mild symptoms, if any. In fact, younger persons can experience severe illness or die as a result of COVID-19, even if they are otherwise healthy.

Not all people exhibit symptoms of the disease even though they are infected and highly contagious, making it impossible to discern whether it is safe to be around someone who does not appear sick. Because there is not yet a vaccine to immunize against the virus and because it is impossible to discern who may or may not be infected, federal, state and local governments and numerous businesses have taken measures to prohibit or restrict events, gatherings and activities that would involve or permit close contact.

Fisk has dedicated significant resources to develop and implement preventative measures and best practices to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 on campus. But, preventative measures will only work to limit an outbreak on campus if everyone strictly follows all of the policies and protocols the University has implemented, without any exceptions. Even with Fisk's preventative measures in place, it is impossible to guarantee that no one on campus will become infected or spread the disease to others, resulting in an outbreak. **Any student or guest that is physically present on Fisk University's campus or who interacts with anyone else in-person places themselves at an increased risk of being infected by COVID-19 since Fisk's physical campus is a shared setting. ACCORDINGLY, ALL PERSONS WHO ARE PHYSICALLY PRESENT ON FISK'S CAMPUS MAY BE EXPOSED TO AND CONTRACT COVID-19 AND VOLUNTARILY ASSUME ALL RISKS OF EXPOSURE TO COVID-19, INCLUDING SEVERE ILLNESS, RESULTING HEALTH COMPLICATIONS OR CONDITIONS, HOSPITALIZATION, PERMANENT DISABILITY, AND DEATH, AND ALL COSTS OF CARE.**