

August 1, 2020

President's COVID-19 Message:

I'm sorry to say that this month I have a less than joyous update to the guild.

After reviewing the Virginia Phase 3 guidelines as well as keeping a close eye on the surging cases in the US and in Virginia, I strongly recommend that we have no in-person events or meetings through the end of this year (2020). While I would hope that everyone in the guild is being careful about social/physical distancing, handwashing and face coverings, I personally think it is too risky to consider having any sort of get togethers in person. The board concurs with my recommendations.

Additionally, it is quite a medico-legal liability that the guild would take if someone got infected from attending a live guild-sponsored event in person. I would feel terrible if someone attended one of our events, contracted the infection and had severe symptoms as a result. There is no waiver in the world that could protect the guild legally should this happen.

According to phase 3 guidelines: For workplaces, it is recommended to "Limit in-person work-related gatherings, including conferences, trade shows, and trainings". There are no specific guidelines for a group such as ours, but I think playing it safe is the best course of action for us. <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/Forward-Virginia-Phase-Three-Guidelines.pdf>

And remember, it is always possible that if the current surge does not decrease soon, we could be forced to go back to Phase 1 or 2 and possibly back to lockdown. Even though the current increase of COVID19 cases is located mainly in the eastern part of Virginia, remember that people can and do travel within the commonwealth (and close by states that have extraordinarily high numbers of infections). Additionally, with the return of UVA students in a few weeks, that will possibly increase the spread in Charlottesville as most young adults are usually minimally symptomatic but infectious at the same time.

Personally, even though I dearly miss them, I am not comfortable with attending in person events, meetings or workshops. Perhaps after an effective vaccine and improved testing will I be ready to return to the life we used to live just 6 months ago!

Rebecca Fox, CVFG President

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