



Hermandad de **Sigma Iota Alpha**, Inc.

National Executive Board

Email: [neb@hermandad-sia.org](mailto:neb@hermandad-sia.org)

---

## HERMANDAD MEMORANDUM

---

**TO:** ALL HERMANAS OF HERMANDAD DE SIGMA IOTA ALPHA, INC.

**FROM:** NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

**SUBJECT:** UPDATED REGARDING CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

**DATE:** MARCH 16, 2020

---

On Tuesday, March 10, 2020, we sent out a national update on the COVID-19 pandemic and our steps pertaining to certain functional areas of our sorority. The National Executive Board (NEB) is continuing to monitor the updates regarding the pandemic as the outbreak spreads across the United States. COVID-19 continues to affect our members and chapters. We wanted to provide an update to some significant changes from the first memo and executive decisions that had to be made out of an abundance of caution for our members and candidates.

### *Spring Regional Meetings (SRMs)*

Regional Directors were notified on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 to cancel all upcoming SRMs. If a regional alumnae chapter would like to keep their schedule date to view the NEB report and give chapter updates in a virtual setting, this is encouraged and welcomed. This may give your chapter the opportunity to come up with questions as a group. NEB will determine a point in the future when we will conduct a virtual town hall to answer any questions regarding NEB's report: rather than calling into the individual SRMs. The NEB report was shared with Regional Directors earlier this month so that it could be disseminated within their chapters. Next week, we will share the report with the general body to capture those that may not be a member of a regional chapter.

### *Undergraduate Intake\**

As the organization finally lifted our moratorium in Fall 2019, chapters have made succession plans to increase their membership in order to remain recognized with our campus partners. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an extreme disruption for many of our chapters and colonies. NEB does not believe it is neither ideal nor fair to shut down intake activities when there are other methods that can be put into place. With the exception of two chapters that we were able to successfully cross their candidates via face-to-face sessions by March 16, **all** of our undergraduate intake activities will continue virtually. This shift may be a difficult change for others to process, however; most of our campus partners have provided this as the only option to continue our new member activities or else those lines would have to be terminated. Additionally, the majority of our campus partners have expressed they **will not** be extending their deadline for intake completion: many of our chapters must complete intake activities by mid-April. Unfortunately, one of our chapter's has already terminated their intake activities due to the fact that the only option was to withdraw the line or suspend all activities and restart them in the Fall 2020 semester.

NEB and the Director of Membership Intake (DMI) office are working diligently to have an online platform live within a week (tentatively) so that our undergraduate members can meet their campus deadlines. At the moment, the delivery of our virtual intake method has not been finalized. We have received a few recommendations from other NALFO organizations that have made executive decisions to go in the same direction. We will be doing experimental trials of these recommendations to test their efficiency and what would work best for our organization. Once this method has been finalized, the MPCs will be notified and an update will be sent to the general body.

#### *Regional Alumnae Chapter Intake\**

Intake activities for our regional chapters are unique as they are not tied to any institutional policies. Regional alumnae chapters can continue their intake activities as normal, however; if an MPC and/or candidate raises a concern about their travel means and/or health, they will be provided with the opportunity to continue their process virtually. If a regional alumnae chapter continues to host session in-person, those sessions are to be limited to 10 participants: this number includes the candidates and MPC/AMPC.

**\*All candidates will be notified of this option so that they are aware that this is a national directive. We hope that this will eliminate any feelings of confusion or pressure to steer from this decision.**

Note: It is important that our Hermandad understands that these changes are at no fault to the candidates or chapters. It is imperative that our Hermanas give our new members, once they have completed their processes, the utmost respect and treat them fairly.

#### *Sorority Events & Business*

All scheduled sorority events and business, on and off campus, are to be suspended effective immediately. Chapters should make arrangements to either postpone or cancel completely. If a chapter decides to continue business once other priorities have been addressed, that business should take place virtually so that members do not feel that their health is being compromised due to travel expectations. If members have ways to alter and facilitate virtual events as well, this is highly encouraged. Virtual events will help our organization maximize social distancing as it could be difficult to control the number of participants in attendance. Suggestions on events that could be virtually will be forthcoming.

#### *Resources*

There continues to be a high volume of institutions shutting down their campuses across the nation. SIA currently has over 80 undergraduate members and with these abrupt closings increasing each day, many of our Hermanas who live on-campus or in affected regions may be displaced. Many families are also experiencing hardships with academic coursework now moving in the direction of distant learning: this is reportedly not just affecting those with college-level students. At this time, we are aware of the following companies offering resources to assist students:

**UHaul** is offering 30 days of free Self-Storage to students who need to move due to COVID-19. There may be limited availability in your area, so it is recommended to act quickly. Visit [uhaul.com/storage](https://www.uhaul.com/storage) to find a nearby location.

**Charter-Spectrum** is offering free broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription at any service level up to 100 Mbps. To enroll in the service, you can call 1 (844) 488-8395 and the company says it will waive installation fees for student households.

**Displacement Assistance:** Hermanas who are having difficulties returning home or whose permanent address is on campus, should contact their Regional Director (RD) as soon as possible so that you can be assisted with resources in the area.

We have asked that our RDs compile a list of Hermanas that are able to assist any member who may be displaced. If you are currently not a member of a regional chapter and are able to assist a member, we ask that you share that information with the regional alumnae chapter closest to you.

As COVID-19 continues to spread, the number of misconceptions have also increased. We understand that it may be difficult to keep up with conflicting reports and updates about the disease. It is important for individuals to stay as up to date as possible and only follow information from verified sources. The Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy has compiled a plethora of resources that could be found at the below links:

- [COVID-19 Tools \(fact sheets, videos, training\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Effects on the Economy - Supply Chain Issues](#)
- [Podcasts and Webinars on COVID-19](#)
- [Maps & Visuals on the COVID-19](#)

At this time, we have received no reports of any of our Hermanas or candidates testing positive or presenting symptoms for COVID-19. We continue to ask Hermanas to be respectful and discrete should they learn of an individual becoming ill. If you, or anyone you may know, has tested positive for COVID-19 or suspected they may have been infected, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has compiled information on preventive measures: [What to Do If You Are Sick](#).

Hermanas, we ask that we all come together as one Hermandad during this time. Many of our members are experiencing difficulties as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Several Hermanas work in entities that have required them to drastically increase their workload in a short period of time with no definite end date in the nearing future. Some Hermanas have had their places of employment shutdown with no pay during closure. Others have had to limit interactions with family members either due to abrupt changes to their schedules or in fear someone may become ill following an outbreak in their immediate area. Many Hermanas are fearful: anxiety levels continue to heighten as there are still so many unknowns about COVID-19. Unfortunately, several of our Hermanas may not have the financial or geographic resources to comfort and provide them with the assistance needed to thrive. This pandemic has caused turmoil in more ways than imaginable. We encourage those that can step up and utilize their skill sets to assist fellow Hermanas, do so to the best of their ability. This is the best time to reflect on our motto: always one and inseparable.

Once again, NEB will continue to monitor updates regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. If anyone has questions or concerns, please feel free to email [neb@hermandad-sia.org](mailto:neb@hermandad-sia.org).

En Hermandad,

The National Executive Board