

August 28, 2020

Landlords, Property Owners and Managers
Ames Rental Housing
Ames, IA

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Ames community needs, and I am personally asking for, your immediate assistance!

Every August we enjoy the return of over 30,000 individuals, coming from all over our country and world to attend Iowa State University. This year, due to the pandemic, the City of Ames (along with many local partners) developed strategies to try to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in our city. On the Iowa State campus, President Wintersteen and her staff implemented extraordinary procedures to mitigate the spread of the virus, including the creation of the *Cyclones Cares* campaign. That initiative includes requiring students to wear face coverings and socially distance both on (and effective last Friday) off-campus.

Unfortunately, many students are not abiding by this requirement off-campus. In particular, students are congregating at large off-campus evening and weekend parties, many hosted at rental properties with partygoers neither wearing face coverings nor social distancing. *Yesterday morning the Governor announced that effective 5:00pm, August 27th (yesterday) that all bars, taverns and breweries are to be closed in Story County (except for take-out) through Sunday September 20th. Due to these closures, it is extremely likely that large group gatherings and parties will occur at off-campus locations, including rental properties.* The Governor also stated that if large gatherings on private property result (due to bar, et.al. closures) she is prepared to implement further restrictive measures to address that development. Plus, with no tailgating allowed on ISU property this football season, it is fully expected that large tailgate parties will be held all over town, including at rental properties, on home football game weekends.

Should these types of large student gatherings and parties continue (at which it is believed the rapid and broad spread of the virus occurs) according to Dr. Wintersteen's message to the Iowa State Community a week ago today, "It puts the health and safety of our campus and community at risk and it jeopardizes our ability to continue with an on-campus experience and in-person classes and activities as we have seen at other universities across the country." Should that occur, the potential impact to the Ames community will likely be staggering. We must work together to avert this from occurring.

Here is how you can help!

- **Inform and work with your tenants to make sure that they do not host any large parties or gatherings at your rental properties!** Should you have lease clauses that restrict large gatherings/parties, remind them of those limitations and other pertinent lease provisions. For those who may not have such lease clauses, using other persuasive methods are needed to eliminate large parties/group gatherings. **Please do everything you possibly can to eliminate large gatherings/parties on your rental properties.**
- Educate your tenants about the importance of wearing face coverings and social distancing, even at small gatherings. *Cyclones Cares* printed materials and information are readily available from Iowa State.

All of us have to work together to minimize the spread of this virus. The City of Ames and Iowa State cannot do this alone. We need your help to accomplish this undertaking. The health and economic well being of our community depends upon our collective efforts! I thank you in advance for your assistance in this critical matter.



John A. Haila
Mayor