

Pat Pitney
Interim President

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Dear UA Community,

We are heading into Halloween weekend against a backdrop of ever-increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases in our communities. While Halloween is usually a time to get together with family and friends at bars, restaurants and parties, it is imperative that we all make different choices this year.

Our Alaska public health experts are clear about how to slow the spread of this virus until a vaccine is available: Stay 6 feet away from others, always wear your mask, wash your hands and avoid large groups of people.

Every single COVID-19 case is a member of our Alaska community. The mitigation measures at our universities have allowed us to hold classes this fall. COVID-19 cases among students and employees have been limited, however, as cases in many of Alaska's communities are increasing, we must remain vigilant.

Each of us has the power to protect our friends and colleagues. Please join me in making that choice this weekend. Stay home. Avoid gatherings of people outside your household. Socialize virtually instead.

This won't go on forever. Thank you for the sacrifice and flexibility you are demonstrating through this difficult time. I look forward to a proper Halloween weekend next year.

Sincerely,
Pat Pitney
Interim President, University of Alaska