



**TRANSCRIPT OF VIDEO MESSAGE TO STUDENTS BY PRESIDENT CURTIS  
August 13, 2020**

Hello Sycamores,

Welcome home! We're so happy to see you moving into the residence halls, walking around our beautiful campus, and getting ready to start the Fall Semester. The faculty and staff have worked hard for months preparing to give you the best possible on-campus experience under the circumstances of COVID-19.

But we must ask for your help.

For all of the safeguards that we have in place, we'll not be able to contain the virus if students ignore rules and responsibilities for safe conduct. Please, wear a mask and avoid gathering in groups where social distancing is either not practiced or impossible. This is absolutely imperative if we're going to have in-person learning and on-campus interactions.

We are particularly concerned about what will happen off-campus, away from the safety protocols we've instituted at ISU. The governor's health commissioner has indicated that parties and large gatherings are the source of many COVID-19 cases in our state. She added that 19- to 29-year-olds are the biggest driver of new cases. There's no getting around it: Students attending crowded bars and parties will spread the virus and make it unmanageable for your university. Much worse, it will threaten the lives of others.

We know that you have endured a lot since March. That's why we're motivated to have Sycamores together on campus now for a great fall semester. Things will get back to normal. Doing the right thing now, regardless of the inconvenience, will get us back to normal faster.

We must have your commitment. We are Sycamore Strong.