

A message from GAU President Anna Wilcoxon:

You may have heard by now that the IDPH has recommended all Illinois Residents stay home as much as possible for the next few weeks (until the beginning of December). Many of us are already working remotely and the University will transition to fully remote after this week. However, as the holiday season approaches and we get closer to Thanksgiving, we want to emphasize the IDPH travel advisory, which states,

“The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other health experts tell us that gatherings and travel in and out of communities present a high risk of spreading the infection. In our current situation, with a rising prevalence of the virus, attending even small gatherings that mix households, or traveling to areas that are experiencing high rates of positivity, is not advised and is potentially dangerous. Please, travel only if necessary.”

We understand how hard it can be to spend the holidays alone. We understand how the difficulties of this year make that loneliness potentially even more painful. But we do urge you to heed the advice from medical experts and reconsider any plans you may have for in-person holiday gatherings with anyone from outside your home, or anywhere out of town. We understand the sacrifice this is, and many of us are making that sacrifice along with you. We hope that the good news of effective vaccines potentially becoming available in the spring can help us to stay strong through this winter, and make smart and safe choices for ourselves, our families, and our communities, both at home (wherever that may be for you) and here in Carbondale.

If you were planning on travelling for Thanksgiving but have since altered your plans to stay in Carbondale and are experiencing any food insecurity or psychological distress, please reach out to us so we can point you in the direction of services on campus that can help. As always, we are here for you, we've got your back, and we are working to do what is best for all of us. Please take care of yourself and others this holiday season.

Also, please join us tomorrow night for Free pizza (pick-up at Pag's at 6pm, MASKS REQUIRED), and zoom trivia at 7pm. <https://zoom.us/j/7224575274>

For more details of the event, visit our Facebook event page at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/829070824612750/> or our website at: <https://gaunited.org/3220-2/>