



Dear Members of the University Community,

As noted previously, we will send regular updates on Monday and Friday of each week with other notices sent by the President, other members of Cabinet or members of the University community when necessary.

Get Up-to-date Information at [www.scranton.edu/covid-19](http://www.scranton.edu/covid-19)

### Recap of Key Information and Communications

- **On March 26, Father Pilarz informed the University community that remote instruction will now continue through the end of the semester.** Students enrolled in online master's programs are not affected by this change. Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D., Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, will provide additional details about remote education next week.
  - Father Pilarz also noted that the campus remains closed per directives from Pennsylvania's Governor and Department of Education. **Offices continue to function remotely and will reopen on campus when possible.**
  - **As of Thursday, March 26, access to campus buildings is no longer available to students,** except for those who have received permission from Residence Life to remain on campus.
  - Robert Davis Jr. Ed.D., Vice President for Student Life, will share specific instructions for all residential students regarding **when and how they can return for their personal items** as soon as our campus situation is more clear.
  - **Finally, Father Pilarz also confirmed that commencement and senior week activities have NOT yet been cancelled.** He promised a final decision would be made no later than May 11, and did provide a contingency date of October 24-25 for commencement should the May 30-31 dates become infeasible. The full message to the University community can be see [here](#).

- The Division of Information Technology offered **virtual training sessions twice daily** this week, as well as other services remotely.
- **The Jesuit Center is continuing to run existing programs via Zoom meetings, as well as new programs for faculty and staff to provide some support and enrichment while we are away from campus.** The first new program is a book club for faculty and staff. The second new program is a Parents Group to support those adjusting to the new reality of living at home with our young children. Additional information can be seen [here](#).
- **The Office of Equity and Diversity/Title IX office reminded the University community that their offices remain open and are functioning remotely.** Ongoing and new investigations will be conducted remotely. Additionally, the campus was reminded that the University is an inclusive community, and deeply values the diversity of our community. COVID-19 does not recognize race, color, nationality/national origin, religion, or ethnicity. Additional information on this communication can be seen [here](#).
- The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) and the Institutional Review Board will continue to carry out reviews of exempt and expedited research protocols. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, **all human subject research studies that involve direct participant contact (face to face) must be paused until further notice.** The entire message can be seek [here](#).
- With campus closed and classes being held remotely for the rest of the spring semester, **students are reminded that mail and packages should not be sent to the University.** We have established procedures for existing and future student packages for students who are not approved to live on campus, and have services in place for students who are approved to live on campus. The full communication can be seen [here](#).

### Updates

- Following “stay at home” restrictions implemented today by the Governor for Lackawanna County, **staff and faculty access to buildings will no longer be available beginning at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 27.** Essential staff and faculty will continue to have access. Others needing access to retrieve important personal items can do so through University Police.
- Dr. Davis and Lauren Rivera, M.Ed., J.D., AVP for Student Life & Dean of Students, hosted a Q & A for students via Zoom on Thursday, March 26 to discuss the University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Dr. Gingerich has continued to work with deans and faculty members to transition courses to a remote learning format. Faculty

have been tremendously supportive and have worked diligently throughout this process.

- **Students should claim their [Zoom account](#)** prior to the beginning of remote learning. Instructions for that and other helpful information is available on the [Information Technology](#) page of the COVID-19 website.
- **Students are reminded to check their Scranton email for communication from faculty members regarding their classes.** It is up to the discretion of the faculty member as to when the class will meet. Student should expect that some classes will require them to meet during normally scheduled class times.

You should expect your next regular update on Monday.

Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Davis Jr., Ed.D.  
Vice President for Student Life

Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D.  
Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Patricia Tetreault  
Vice President for Human Resources