



Jan. 10, 2022

Dear Members of the University Community,

We hope that you have all had a joyous and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Over the past few weeks, [the Omicron variant](#) of the SARS-CoV-2 virus has triggered a marked rise in cases throughout the country, and Northeastern Pennsylvania is now sharing in these trends. Just recently, for example, Lackawanna County declared a [state of emergency](#), and the City of Scranton has similarly implemented additional safety measures.

Consistent with our approach throughout the pandemic, the University has carefully monitored information and trends as we consider any needed adjustments to our pandemic response. Based on this review, we have decided to implement a number of steps for Intersession. Information for the Spring Semester will be shared in the coming weeks.

The following steps take effect immediately and will remain in place through the end of Intersession (January 25, 2022):

Classes and Laboratories

- There are no changes to intersession classes and laboratories. Classes and labs will continue in person or online as was originally planned.

University Meetings, Events and Gatherings

- **University meetings held in January must be conducted virtually** unless otherwise approved by the appropriate divisional vice president or the president.
- **University events and gatherings** scheduled for January must be held virtually unless approved by the appropriate divisional vice president or the president. Events that are held in person must use mitigation

strategies including social distancing and strict adherence to the University's [mask requirements](#). Food and beverage service at events is prohibited.

Campus Visitors and Guests

- **Athletic Events:** Athletic events will continue as scheduled, following established protocols. Proof of vaccination for non-University guests and strict mask-wearing will be required for all spectators attending athletic events. Students, faculty and staff can continue to gain access through their Royal Card.
- **Admissions Visitors:** Prospective students and families can continue to schedule visits through the Admissions Office. Admissions has implemented additional safety protocols to accommodate these visitors on campus (e.g. use of larger gathering rooms, strict masking and social distancing.)

University Staff Scheduling

- **Flexible Work Arrangements:** Department supervisors are empowered to implement flexible work scheduling, including the option for staff to work remotely when possible, in order to reduce the number of staff on campus. **Plans can remain in place through Friday, January 21.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

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