



January 24, 2022

Dear Faculty colleagues:

As the beginning of our spring semester quickly approaches this Wednesday, I am hoping that everyone was able to get some rest and rejuvenation over the holiday break and January.

Unfortunately, the pandemic continues to impact our daily lives. The University's decisions about how to respond have been difficult, but we will continue to work with faculty-elected leadership and also receive your individual feedback, recognizing that there are varied views about the University's response. We will continue to listen and make decisions based on the best available professional guidance for the health and safety of our community.

The University of Scranton delivers an excellent education that is deeply based in our Catholic and Jesuit values of respect and inclusivity. I am fortunate to work with you as we seek to provide intellectual and personal mentoring to our students. The pandemic has challenged our ability to achieve this goal, yet you have been steadfast in your efforts to foster deep learning by engaging students through classroom, lab, research, experiential and clinical activities. While I wish we could start this semester without restrictions, we are asking once again for you to comply with our health and safety policies. We pray that all of our efforts will be worthwhile to help us through this most recent spike of community spread.

You have been sent the updated health and safety protocols in the [Royals Back Together](#) plan for the University. If you have questions, please reach out to your dean or department chair. You can always feel free to email me as well.

We will again have students who will be quarantined or isolated this semester. We will follow the same process as the Fall semester in notifying you. Nick Truncale, Director of Student Retention and Completion, will send notification emails each weekday morning based on the information that he receives from Student Health Services the day before and overnight. The notification email will identify the student's anticipated last day of absence. Should the student be permitted to return to class earlier than anticipated or should their quarantine need to be extended, the student will provide you with contract tracer verification. We are asking again this semester for you to accommodate students who are quarantined or isolated. You only need to provide these accommodations, though, if you receive official notification. If students reach out to you before you receive this notification, please ask them to contact Student Health Services. It is possible there will be a 24-hour delay before you receive an official notification email.

We have ensured that each of the Dean's Offices has an adequate supply of N95 or KN95 facemasks. If students forget to bring an appropriate mask to class, please feel free to send them to

any of the Dean's offices for one. You can ask a student to leave class if they do not have an appropriate facemask.

Additionally, please be aware:

- In-person student internships are permitted on- and off-campus. Students must follow pandemic safety protocols as required by the internship host site.
- Community-Based Learning courses and related projects can now proceed with a return to in-person and off-campus activities at community agencies and sites, abiding by any agency COVID protocols. Community partners/leaders are also permitted to join CBL courses on campus and in-person for presentations, talks, etc.

There will be more information to come and I will continue to update you with further details as we move into the semester. In the meantime, let's keep open communication. Thank you for all that you do.

Jeff

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