



January 31, 2022

Dear Members of the University Community

The University will continue to send regular updates once per week, typically on Mondays, regarding Royals Back Together. Other notices will be sent by our President, members of Cabinet or members of the University community when necessary.

The most up-to-date information will continue to be posted [at Royals Back Together webpage](#).

### Higher-Grade Mask Requirement

Because COVID-19 case activity remains high in Lackawanna and surrounding counties, [higher grade masks](#) are required indoors regardless of vaccination status, and [campus is only open to members of the University community and invited guests](#). It remains our hope that we can revisit various safety measures, such as the higher mask standard, if the community spreads return to levels we were experiencing before the recent surge in cases.

### University Meetings, Events & Virtual Resources Update

**In Person:** Meetings and events **can take place in person** so long as all participants, including invited guests, **follow updated guidance for use of [higher grade masks](#)**. The University strongly discourages including dining with meetings and events while enhanced mask requirements are in place. The President, Vice-Presidents or Deans may approve events or meetings with dining in exceptional cases. **Proof of vaccination is not required** for attendance at University events **unless otherwise specified** (e.g. athletic events). Meeting spaces on campus remain in their original configuration and use.

**Virtual Resources:** Zoom and Microsoft Teams remain available for faculty, staff and student use in hosting meetings and events. Resources can be accessed through the My.Scranton portal.

### Report of Active Cases of SARS-CoV-2 on Campus

The University will report positive cases of the SARS-CoV-2 virus on campus. For the spring semester, unvaccinated University community members who were granted a waiver due to medical or religious reason, must participate in weekly surveillance testing. Vaccinated individuals who have been identified through contact tracing as being exposed to someone who

tested positive would also be tested three to five days after exposure. Data for students and employees will be reported each week.

### **Campus Metrics Summary for January 24 to January 30:**

- One student reported symptoms and tested positive on campus, one student reported testing positive through off-campus test sites, and zero students tested positive during the testing protocols following exposure to COVID-19. University contact tracers identified and notified individuals of possible exposure and the protocols for testing and, if necessary, quarantine.\*
- Two employees tested positive through the University surveillance tests. Six employees tested positive through non-University testing. Contact tracing has been completed.

Reported Positive Student Cases: 2\*

Students in isolation: 2

Students in quarantine: 2

Students meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 3

Reported Positive Employee Cases: 8

Employees in isolation: 10

Employees in quarantine: 0

Employees meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine/isolation: 28

**\* Note: The student data above is for Wednesday, January 26** (the start of classes for the spring semester) **through Sunday, January 30.** A total of 105 students tested positive during entry-testing for the spring semester and are following protocols for off-campus isolation and guidelines for returning to campus.

Also note: The information provided reflects activity within a given week. Because the general timeframe for isolation and quarantine overlaps with weekly reporting, numbers between weeks will differ.

### **Updates**

- Following the latest recommendations by the CDC and other agencies and continued high community spread of COVID-19 cases, the University has updated the Royals Back Together plan for the spring semester. Information about current campus guidelines for [higher grade masks](#), [isolation and quarantine](#), [vaccination and booster requirements](#) and other information is posted on the [Royals Back Together website](#).
  - Faculty and staff are reminded to **update their vaccine attestation statement** currently on file with Human Resources through the following link: [scranton.edu/vaccine](https://scranton.edu/vaccine).
- **Higher Grade Mask Distribution on Campus:**
  - **Students:**
    - A limited supply of **free higher grade masks** are available **for students in the mailroom of the DeNaples Center.**

- A limited supply of **free higher grade masks** are available for **graduate students during the day or evening at the University Police Office on Mulberry Street.**
- **University Departments** can secure masks and other personal protective equipment by completing [an online ordering form](#) for the Purchasing Department. Departments should monitor their use of PPE and request additional supplies 7-10 days before running out.
- **On Feb. 1, Student Life will email a survey to students who have not yet uploaded their booster information** to their Student Health Portal. The survey will inquire about their plans for meeting the February 28 booster requirement deadline.

**You should expect the next weekly update on Monday, February 7, 2022.**

Sincerely,

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

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

Patricia L. Tetreault  
Vice President for Human Resources