



THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON

CAMPUS HEALTH & SAFETY

Oct. 17, 2022

Dear Members of the University Community,

The University continues to monitor COVID-19 activity on campus and in the local community. We rely on health experts from agencies such as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to inform the Campus Health and Safety Plan. We continue to adjust our guidance to campus as circumstances evolve.

### **COVID-19 Cases in Lackawanna County**

The [CDC maintains a database to track the level of community spread of COVID-19](#) cases by county so that “...communities and individuals make decisions based on their local context and their unique needs.” In the past week, the CDC has elevated **Lackawanna County to a “high” level of community spread**, triggering a CDC recommendation that masks be worn when indoors.

### **Masks Recommended Indoors**

**Echoing the CDC, we recommend members of the University community and guests on campus wear high-grade masks when indoors, regardless of vaccination status.** We also want to remind members of the University community of the following:

- **Instructors can require that well-fitted, higher-grade masks or double masks be worn in instructional spaces** (e.g. classrooms, laboratories). No explanation is required.
- **Employees and students can require individuals to wear well-fitted, higher-grade masks or double masks in their personal**

**workspaces or residence hall rooms, respectively.** No explanation is required.

**Reporting Positive Cases:**

- **Students must continue to report positive cases to Student Health services by using the reporting form on the MyScranton portal.** Faculty will continue to be notified of student COVID-related absences through the Provost's Office. Faculty will be notified of all other student absences by their Dean's Office.
- **Faculty and staff must continue to report positive cases to the Office of Human Resources.** To report your positive case, please call (570) 941-7767 or send an email to [hr@scranton.edu](mailto:hr@scranton.edu). Weekly metrics of positive cases for students and employees are posted to the [Reporting and Supplies page](#) of the Campus Health and Safety website.

**Vaccine Booster:**

**Bivalent Booster Vaccines:** Consistent with [CDC guidance](#), people ages 12 and older are recommended to receive one bivalent booster. This includes people who have received all primary series doses and people who previously received one or more of the original (monovalent) boosters. Please reference the [CDC guidance](#) for recommendation details and consult with your healthcare provider.

The University is planning to host a Bivalent Booster Clinic on campus for students, faculty and staff on Thursday, Nov. 10. Additional details and a registration form will be shared with members of the University community in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Maldonado, Ph.D.  
Interim Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Patricia L. Tetreault  
Vice President for Human Resources

Lauren S. Rivera, J.D., M.Ed.  
Interim Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students