

Subject: COVID-19 Campus Updates and Reminders



Oct. 6, 2022

Dear Members of the Faculty and Staff:

As we approach Fall break, we wanted to share the following COVID updates and reminders: The most current and comprehensive information regarding COVID protocols can be found on the University's [Campus Health and Safety website](#). Links to this page can be found on the University's [About Us page](#), the [Student Health Services page](#), and in your [my.scranton portal](#).

REPORTING POSITIVE CASES

Faculty and staff should 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.

Students will continue to report positive cases to Student Health Services. Faculty will continue to be notified of student COVID-related absences through the Provost's Office. Faculty will be notified of all other excused student absences by their Dean's Office.

Weekly metrics of positive cases for students and employees are posted to the [Reporting and Supplies page](#) of the Campus Health and Safety website.

ISOLATION AND EXPOSURE

The following guidance has remained unchanged since August 2022:

Isolation for Positive Cases: Following the CDC's guidance, infected persons must isolate if they receive a positive test. Students and employees must isolate at home. They may end isolation after five days when they are without a fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medication and all other symptoms have improved. They should continue to wear a well-fitted, higher-grade mask around others through day 10.

Exposure to Someone Testing Positive: Following the CDC's guidance, persons who have had recent confirmed or suspected exposure to an infected person should wear a well-fitted, higher-grade mask or double mask for 10 days around others when indoors in public. Individuals should secure a PCR test five days after exposure (or sooner, if they are symptomatic), irrespective of their vaccination status. Students and employees can get PCR testing through a [regional testing outlet](#).

MASKING

Indoor masking in all campus buildings remains optional for all members of the University community and guests regardless of vaccination status. Please note, **instructors can require that**

well-fitted, higher-grade masks or double masks be worn in instructional spaces (e.g. classrooms, laboratories). **Employees and students can also 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 for these requests. **Individuals are free to continue wearing masks at all times should they wish to do so.**

Higher-grade masks are available for students through the Printing & Mailing Services, at 315 Jefferson Avenue, during the day and at University Police in the Parking Pavilion in the evenings. **Departments can continue to obtain masks and other personal protective equipment** by completing an [online ordering form](#) and emailing it to the Purchasing Department.

VACCINE

Bivalent Booster Vaccines: Consistent with [CDC guidance](#), people ages 12 years 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.

COMMUNITY DATA

For your information, regional and nationwide COVID data is available through the [CDC Data Tracker](#).

The University will continue to monitor the spread of the virus, especially within the broader region, and will respond accordingly. Any additional institutional actions, including decisions related to increased campus safety measures, will be informed by this ongoing assessment and by guidance or directives from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and/or U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Best wishes for an enjoyable Fall break,
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