



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](#).

Mask Requirement Extended Through Rest of Semester

Because COVID-19 case activity remains high in Lackawanna and surrounding counties, the University will extend its mask requirement and access restrictions through the rest of the fall semester and winter break. [Masks will continue to be required indoors](#) regardless of vaccination status and [campus will remain open only to members of the University community and invited guests](#). The requirements will remain in place **through to January 3, 2022**. We will announce any continuation or change on or before that date.

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 fall 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 November 15 to 21:

- One student reported symptoms and tested positive on campus, four students reported testing positive through off-campus test sites, two students tested positive through surveillance testing, and no 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.
- No employees tested positive through the University surveillance tests. Three (3) employees tested positive through non-University testing. Contact tracing was completed.

Reported Positive Student Cases: 7
Students in isolation: 8
Students in quarantine: 1
Students meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 5

Reported Positive Employee Cases: 3
Employees in isolation: 4
Employees in quarantine: 2
Employees meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine/isolation: 1

*Note: 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

- **Thanksgiving Break: The last day of classes is Tuesday, November 23**, with housing closing on Wednesday, November 24, for Thanksgiving break. **University offices will be closed November 24, 25 and 26 for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Classes will resume on Monday, November 29.**
- **Vaccine Booster Information:** On Nov. 19, the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration amended the emergency use authorizations](#) for both the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines, **authorizing use of a single booster dose for all individuals 18 years of age and older after completion of primary vaccination with any FDA-authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine.** We encourage those eligible to consider the booster shot and refer individuals to [the CDC website for more information.](#)
- The University's Class of 2020 Gateway will play a **tribute to Public Healthcare Workers** on Monday, Nov. 22, as part of Public Health Thank You Day, which falls each year on the Monday prior to Thanksgiving. On most days, the University has continued to light the Gateway sign with [a red cross on a blue background](#) to honor all those who are bravely and selflessly responding to the pandemic, especially acknowledging the service of alumni and members of the University community.

We wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving. You should expect your next regular update on Monday, November 29, 2021.

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

