



Dec. 20, 2021

Dear Members of the University Community,

This is the final regular weekly update for the fall semester regarding Royals Back Together. **Weekly updates will resume again on Monday, January 24, 2022**, for the spring semester. Until then, communications will be sent as needed by the President, members of Cabinet or members of the University community, as we continue to monitor recommendations of the CDC and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

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

Mask Requirement Extended Through to January 24

Because COVID-19 case activity remains high in Lackawanna and surrounding counties, **the University has extended the mask requirement through to January 24, 2022, and [the campus will remain open only to members of the University community and invited guests. Masks will be required when indoors](#) regardless of vaccination status.** We will announce any continuation or change on or before that date.

Booster Shots Strongly Encouraged for All Who Are Eligible

The University continues to monitor the CDC [definition of full vaccination](#) as we consider whether to require booster shots as part of our vaccine mandate. **At this time, the University strongly encourages all members of the community to receive a vaccine booster [if they are eligible](#).** According to the CDC, individuals who are 16 years of age or older who received the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, and individuals 18 years of age and older who received the Moderna or the Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccines, are eligible for a single booster dose.

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 December 13 to December 19:

- One student reported symptoms and tested positive on campus, three students reported testing positive through off-campus test sites, and one student 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 employees tested positive through non-University testing.

Reported Positive Student Cases: 5

Students in isolation: 6

Students in quarantine: 0

Students meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 11

Reported Positive Employee Cases: 3

Employees in isolation: 3

Employees in quarantine: 0

Employees meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine/isolation: 7

*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.

We wish to thank you for your cooperation in following the health and safety guidelines outlined in the Royals Back Together plan. The care you have shown to one another by following the guidelines throughout the semester is greatly appreciated.

We wish you and your families all the best for the holiday season and new year.

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