February 7, 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.

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 31 to February 6:
- Two students reported symptoms and tested positive on campus, four students reported testing positive through off-campus tests, two students tested positive through surveillance testing, 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.
- No employees tested positive through the University surveillance tests. Three employees tested positive through non-University testing. Contact tracing has been completed.
Reported Positive Student Cases: 8
Students in isolation: 13
Students in quarantine: 1
Students meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 7

Reported Positive Employee Cases: 3
Employees in isolation: 6
Employees in quarantine: 2
Employees meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine/isolation: 8

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
- **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.

**You should expect the next weekly update on Monday, February 14, 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