



February 14, 2022

Dear Members of the University Community:

Happy Valentine's Day.

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**

COVID-19 case activity remains high in Lackawanna and surrounding counties. To help keep members of the University community safe, **[higher grade masks](#) are required indoors regardless of vaccination status, and the [campus is only open to members of the University community and invited guests](#)**. The University continues to monitor developments and will adapt our plan accordingly. We look forward to the day when conditions allow us to relax our requirements.

### **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 February 7 to February 13:**

- Six students reported symptoms and tested positive on campus, four students reported testing positive through off-campus tests, zero students tested positive through surveillance testing, and six 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.
- One employee tested positive through the University surveillance tests. Four employees tested positive through non-University testing. Contact tracing has been completed.

Reported Positive Student Cases: 16

Students in isolation: 22

Students in quarantine: 2

Students meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 15

Reported Positive Employee Cases: 5

Employees in isolation: 6

Employees in quarantine: 0

Employees meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine/isolation: 7

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**

- **Booster Clinic for Students, Faculty and Staff:** The University will host a clinic for COVID-19 booster vaccines for students, faculty and staff in the **Byron Recreation Complex on Thursday, February 17, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** The COVID-19 Booster is offered **free of charge**, and the clinic has both **Pfizer and Moderna vaccines available**. The University's Center for Health Education & Wellness partnered with Hometown Healthcare of NEPA to offer the clinic.
  - [Students can make an appointment here.](#)
  - [Faculty and staff can make an appointment here.](#)
- [Boosters are required by February 28](#) for members of the University community who are eligible.

- Students are reminded to confirm receipt of the booster shot by uploading an updated vaccination card to the [Student Health Portal](#).
- Employees are reminded to update their vaccine attestation statement currently on file with Human Resources through the following link: [scranton.edu/vaccine](https://scranton.edu/vaccine).
- **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 21, 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