



February 23, 2022

Dear Members of the University Community,

Over the past several weeks, states, communities and organizations have relaxed various pandemic mitigation efforts, including moves to lessen mask mandates and restrictions on meetings and events. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control is reportedly developing updated guidance on mitigation strategies, especially masking.

Within our own community, Lackawanna and nearby counties are reporting a marked decline in new cases and hospitalizations. These are encouraging signs.

Important Changes to Royals Back Together Plan

Because of the booster requirement and the very high vaccination rate on campus, the University will implement the following changes to our Royals Back Together safety protocols, **effective Monday, February 28, and continuing through the end of spring break on March 21:**

Masks

- Fully vaccinated and boosted members of the community **can choose not to wear a mask indoors** in all campus buildings **with the following notable exceptions. Higher grade masks are still required in classrooms, laboratories, shared offices and campus liturgies.** They are recommended while moving in hallways between classes and laboratories.
 - **We must all respect and support individuals who choose to continue wearing masks on campus.**
- Members of the community who are **unvaccinated or eligible but not boosted must wear higher-grade masks indoors** throughout campus.

- Employees and students have the right to ask all individuals to wear masks in their personal workspaces or residence hall rooms, respectively.
- The [campus is only open to members of the University community and invited guests](#). **Guests must wear higher-grade masks indoors** throughout campus regardless of vaccination status.

Meetings and Events

- Meetings and events **can include dining options**. Invited guests and members of the community who are unvaccinated or not boosted must wear a mask when not eating or drinking.
- Proof of vaccination is no longer required for visitors to attend athletic events.

Reminder: Booster Requirement Deadline is Monday, February 28

The University's booster requirement deadline is Monday, February 28. Data on the effectiveness of the booster against Omicron variants further supports the importance of the requirement as part of our overall pandemic response. **Students must confirm their booster status** by uploading an updated vaccination card to the [Student Health Portal](#). **Employees must update their attestation statement** currently on file with Human Resources through the following link: scranton.edu/vaccine. As previously noted, students and employees can request an exemption using information provided on the [vaccination and booster webpage](#).

We are pleased to announce the above relaxation of our health and safety standards. We will continue to monitor developments and will adjust our response accordingly. We look forward to being able to relax standards even more.

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