



February 28, 2022

Dear Members of the University Community:

Mask Update:

The University announced an update regarding its Royals Back Together safety protocols with respect to mask requirements, **effective today, February 28, and continuing through the end of spring break on March 21.** Key information included:

- 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.**
- Masks are **recommended** while moving in hallways between classes and laboratories.
- 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.
- The [full communication](#) sent on February 23 can be seen on the Royals Back Together webpage.

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 21 to February 27:

- Three students reported symptoms and tested positive on campus, fifteen students reported testing positive through off-campus test sites, one student tested positive through surveillance testing, 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. One employee tested positive through non-University testing. Contact tracing has been completed.

Reported Positive Student Cases: 20

Students in isolation: 14

Students in quarantine: 1

Students meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 16

Reported Positive Employee Cases: 1

Employees in isolation: 1

Employees in quarantine: 0

Employees meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine/isolation: 4

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

- **The [CDC has updated guidelines regarding mask recommendations](#) on February 25, 2022.** The University will review the latest recommendation as it relates to our health and safety protocols. The University's current masking requirements remain in effect until March 21.

- **Vaccine boosters are required** for members of the University community who are eligible today, February, 28, 2022.
 - **Booster Shots for Those with Current or Recent Infections:** According to the CDC, individuals are eligible for a booster shot or vaccination after they recover from their illness and can meet the criteria to discontinue isolation. Persons with questions about prior infections should consult with their healthcare professional.
 - **Students are reminded to confirm receipt of the booster shot** by uploading an updated vaccination card to the Student Health Portal. Student requests for a booster waiver should be sent to vaccines@scranton.edu.
 - **Employees are reminded to update their vaccine attestation statement** currently on file with Human Resources through the following link: scranton.edu/vaccine.
 - Employee requests for waivers should be sent to Elizabeth Garcia, Esq., Special Assistant to the President, Executive Director for the Office of Equity and Diversity, and Title IX Coordinator at elizabeth.garcia2@scranton.edu.
- **Higher Grade Mask Distribution on Campus:** A limited supply of **free higher grade masks are available for students** in the mailroom of the DeNaples Center and for graduate students at the University Police Office on Mulberry Street. **University Departments** can order masks and other personal protective equipment by completing an online ordering form for the Purchasing Department.

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.**

You should expect the next weekly update on Monday, March 7, 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