



March 28, 2022

Dear Members of the University Community,

### Current Masking Approach that Began Saturday, March 26, Continues:

- **Beginning on March 26, indoor masking in all campus buildings was made optional for all members of the University community regardless of vaccination status, with notable exceptions, as detailed in the [email dated March 24](#).**
- Other guidelines related to these recent changes include:
  - Members of the community should **carry a mask** with them. The University will continue to make masks available at [current locations](#).
  - Students may ask their instructors to consider retaining a mask requirement in instructional spaces. A [confidential online process](#), which is managed by the Pandemic Safety Officer and Office of Equity and Diversity, is also available.
  - **Guests are encouraged to wear a mask indoors throughout campus if they choose to do so.** The [campus is only open to members of the University community and invited guests](#).
  - **There are many reasons why an individual may continue wearing a mask. We must all respect and support individuals who continue wearing masks on campus.**

### 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 March 21 to March 27:

- One student reported symptoms and tested positive on campus, four students reported testing positive through off-campus test sites, zero 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. One employee tested positive through non-University testing.

Reported Positive Student Cases: 5  
Students in isolation: 5  
Students in quarantine: 0  
Students meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 1

Reported Positive Employee Cases: 1  
Employees in isolation: 1  
Employees in quarantine: 0  
Employees meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine/isolation: 0

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.

### Other Important Updates

- **Meetings and Events:** Meetings and events can include dining options. Masks are optional for individuals attending meetings and events **unless required by the individual or department organizing the meeting or event.**

The Royals Back Together Plan continues to be informed by [newly released guidelines](#) from the **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**. The guidance helps communities adopt prevention behaviors best suited to current pandemic conditions. Lackawanna County is currently designated as “Low.” The CDC does not recommend mandatory indoor masking for communities that are designated as “low” or “medium.”

We will continue to monitor developments and will adjust our response accordingly.

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, April 4, 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