



May 16, 2022

Dear Members of the University Community,

Since the pandemic began, the University has turned to health experts from agencies such as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to inform the campus Royals Back Together Plan. We continue to adjust our plan as the recommendations and situation concerning the pandemic continue to evolve.

Mask Protocol:

The most recent CDC approach to mask recommendations takes into consideration vaccine status and other conditions, The [CDC maintains a database to track the level of community spread](#) of COVID-19 cases by county so that “communities and individuals make decisions based on their local context and their unique needs.”

In the past week, the CDC has elevated **Lackawanna County to a “high” level of community spread**, triggering a CDC recommendation that masks be worn when indoors.

Echoing the CDC, we recommend members of the University community and guests on campus wear high-grade masks when indoors, regardless of vaccination status. We also want to remind members of the University community of the following:

- **Instructors can require that well-fitted, higher-grade masks or double masks be worn in instructional spaces** (e.g. classrooms, laboratories). No explanation is required.
- **Employees and students can require individuals to wear well-fitted, higher-grade masks or double masks in their personal workspaces or residence hall rooms, respectively.** No explanation is required.

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 May 9 to May 15:

- Fourteen students reported symptoms and tested positive on campus, twenty-nine students reported testing positive through off-campus test sites, four students tested positive through surveillance testing, and three 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. Four employees tested positive through non-University testing. Contact tracing has been completed.

Reported Positive Student Cases: 50

Students in isolation: 42

Students in quarantine: 0

Students meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 52

Reported Positive Employee Cases: 4

Employees in isolation: 8

Employees in quarantine: 1

Employees meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine/isolation: 9

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.

This is the final weekly update for the semester. The campus will [reopen to the general public for the start of the summer term](#) on Tuesday, May 24. During the summer, we will continue to monitor the situation. Updates will be sent by our President, members of Cabinet or members of the University community when necessary. The most up-to-date information can be found on the [Royals Back Together webpage](#).

On a final note, **we wish to thank all the members of the University community – staff, faculty, parents and, especially, our students – for your support of the Royals Back Together plan.** Your cooperation and care for one another has allowed us to spend another academic year together. We are truly grateful to you.

To our graduates, congratulations. We look forward to celebrating commencement with you this weekend. And to our students returning in the fall, we look forward to seeing you again after summer break.

We wish you all the best.

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