



May 9, 2022

Dear Members of the University Community,

As the semester comes to a close, we remind you to continue to follow our health and safety protocols as outlined on the [Royals Back Together webpage](#), where the most updated information is posted.

Mask Protocol:

At this time, **indoor masking in all campus buildings [remains optional](#) for all members of the University community regardless of vaccination status unless otherwise directed.** The [campus is only open to members of the University community and invited guests](#), which includes guests attending commencement ceremonies next weekend.

With the increase in COVID cases reported among students this week, **we will closely monitor case activity to determine if stricter mitigation steps are necessary.** In the meantime, members of the University community and guests are **encouraged to wear a mask if they choose to do so.** Members of the community are reminded to carry a mask with them.

The Royals Back Together Plan continues to be informed by [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 “medium.” The CDC does not recommend mandatory indoor masking for communities that are designated as “low” or “medium.”

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 2 to May 8:

- Five students reported symptoms and tested positive on campus, twenty-six students reported testing positive through off-campus test sites, zero students 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. Eight employees tested positive through non-University testing. Contact tracing has been completed.

Reported Positive Student Cases: 32

Students in isolation: 14

Students in quarantine: 0

Students meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 6

Reported Positive Employee Cases: 8

Employees in isolation: 13

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.

You should expect the next weekly update on Monday, May 16, 2022, which will be the final weekly update for the semester. During the summer, we will continue to monitor developments and will adjust our response accordingly. Updates will be sent by our President, members of Cabinet or members of the University community when necessary.

Good luck with your final exams.

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