

Subject: The University of Scranton Provides Details on Two-Week Pause of In-Person Classes
Date: Friday, September 11, 2020 at 3:51:15 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Health and Safety <healthandsafety@scranton.edu>
To: universitycommunity@scranton.edu <universitycommunity@scranton.edu>
Attachments: image001.png



Dear Members of the University Community,

As Father Pilarz shared earlier today in his [video message](#), The University of Scranton is implementing the following important safety measures to reduce the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus on campus. These additional measures are intended to provide us with the best opportunity to finish the semester in Scranton.

Given the current number of students in quarantine and isolation, the two-week period of remote instruction, as Father Pilarz announced, offers students and faculty consistency on the method of instruction without further disruption. More importantly, limiting the movement of students on campus further decreases possible transmission of the virus. Additionally, students now in isolation and quarantine will be able to return to campus with their peers when in-person instruction resumes.

The campus remains open during this pause with the changes outlined below and on a [new section of the Royal Safe Together website](#).

Student Life:

- Consistent with advice from national health experts, **students staying on campus and in the Hill Section should remain in Scranton**. Should you decide to return home, then please be aware that you may need to quarantine when you return to campus.
- Beginning today students will need to **further restrict their movements** on- and off-campus.
- Starting today, Friday, September 11, **students living in University residence halls must remain on campus, except for when absolutely necessary**. We will also **prohibit** visitation in all student residences, meaning that only students who live in a particular room, quad, or apartment may be present in the residence. **Please do not visit a residence hall where you do not live**.
 - Additionally, all public gathering spaces and lounges in residences halls will be closed.

- All **student programming activities** will be virtual until the end of September.
- **Family Weekend**, which was originally planned for September 25-27, is postponed until the spring semester.
- Students living **off campus or at home** must remain off campus, unless they have an in-person class, scheduled appointment, work study or participate in a University meal plan. Off-campus students must restrict interactions **only to those living in your apartment or house**.
- We encourage all students to **spend time outdoors**, observing all safety guidelines and keeping any groups to no more than 10 people while adhering to 6' social distancing and wearing a mask.
- **Food Service will continue on campus** in The DeNaples Center and other areas. Please see the [Dining Services website](#) for more information.
- **Several campus facilities will be closed** during this two-week pause, including the fitness center and indoor recreation spaces. Outdoors recreation spaces, such as Fitzpatrick Field, the Volleyball Court and Tennis Courts, will remain open.
- **Student Life offices** and services, including Student Health Services and the Counseling Center, will remain open.
- We will continue to make **individual zoom rooms available** for student use on campus. Locations of zoom rooms can be found [here](#). Commuter students can schedule certain rooms for use with classes by contacting Off-Campus and Commuter Student Life at occs@scranton.edu or 570-941-6292. Additional available rooms for resident students will be announced next week.
- The weekly **Sunday evening campus Mass** will be streamed live beginning this weekend and continuing through the pause. The Tuesday and Thursday noon Masses are cancelled during this period.

Academic Life

- Classes will **meet in person today and Monday and Tuesday (September 14-15)**.
- On **Wednesday, September 16, in-person classes will shift to remote education**.
- We will **return to in-person classes** (or mode of teaching established at the beginning of the semester) **on Wednesday, September 30**.
- **Select laboratory courses** will be permitted to continue meeting in person at the direction of the appropriate dean in consultation with the department chair. Only courses with (L) designation will be considered.
- **Access for individual research laboratory work can continue**. We ask faculty and students to follow the current Royals Safe Together procedures for labs.
- **Faculty will continue to have access to individual offices** and may continue to teach remotely from your scheduled classroom if you prefer.
- The Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence (CTLE) and Information Technology (IT) staff are available to help with transitions to remote learning. **We encourage including as much interactive (Zoom) classwork as possible** as students have expressed their appreciation for this interaction when learning remotely. The Provost's office will send additional information to faculty for successful remote learning.
 - You can contact the CTLE by email at ctle@scranton.edu.

- Exams administered through online platforms must comply with the time extensions for each individual student's accommodation needs. [Click here for steps on how to configure Special Access in D2L](#). Students with accommodations through the CTLE can continue to take their tests in the CTLE during this period.
- **IT support** is available by phone at 570-941-4357 or by e-mail at techsupport@scranton.edu, or you can enter a ticket in Royal IT Support via the My Scranton portal.
- The **Weinberg Memorial Library** will hold limited hours with both building and staffing. The new hours are Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday Noon to 7 p.m. Access is by swipe only to members of the University community (no public patrons). The Circulation Desk will remain open, but access to some areas/services will be limited. No after-hours swipe access will be allowed.

General Information

- **University offices** will remain open. During this period, supervisors may assess staffing and make adjustments for remote work as they deem appropriate.
- **Work study** students should continue to report to work remotely or in offices as directed by your supervisors.
- **Admissions tours** and other scheduled appointments on campus can continue during the pause.

Testing and Enforcement

- **Testing:** Over the next two weeks, employees will continue to be tested as planned. Student testing will shift from random to a more targeted approach to assist better in our response. As always, you will be notified to schedule any testing appointment by email.
- **Enforcement:** All members of the University community [must abide by the steps outlined here](#) as well as all provisions in the Royals Safe Together plan.

You should expect your next regular update on Monday, Sept. 14.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Davis Jr., Ed.D.
Vice President for Student Life

Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D.
Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Patricia Tetreault
Vice President for Human Resources