



Dear Members of the University Community,

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](#). The webpage also includes icons near the top of the page (like those in the letterhead) which indicate if masks are required indoors on campus as well as access to campus for the general public.

Currently [masks are required indoors](#) regardless of vaccination status. The campus is only open to members of the University community and invited guests. [The requirements will remain in place through to Oct. 4.](#)

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 fall 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 September 6 to September 12:

- Two students reported symptoms and tested positive on campus, and three students tested positive through off-campus test sites, and one student tested positive during the testing protocols following exposure to COVID-19. All students testing positive are in isolation. 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. Two employees tested positive through non-University testing.

Reported Positive Student Cases: 6

Students in isolation: 6

Students in quarantine: 3

Students meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 3

Reported Positive Employee Cases: 2

Employees in isolation: 2

Employees in quarantine: 0

Employees meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine/isolation: 0

*Note: 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

- **Reminder – Application Deadline for Emergency Grants:** Students wishing to apply for [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding](#) must do so before 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 26. To apply, students must complete an online application available on the Student Tab of my.scranton.
- **Because COVID-19 case activity in Lackawanna and surrounding counties, the University announced it will extend the indoor mask requirement, regardless of vaccination status, and limit access to the campus through to Oct. 4.** In [the announcement](#), members of the University community were reminded:
 - **Indoors:** Masks are required for all indoor spaces regardless of vaccination status for students, employees, visitors and guests (e.g. contractors, etc.).
 - **Dining on Campus:** Members of the University community are reminded to put masks on again after eating or drinking on campus.
 - **Study Rooms:** Masks are not required when students are alone in study rooms. Masks must be worn when more than one student is in a study room.
 - **Residence Halls:** Students in University residence halls must follow the guidance provided on the following webpage: [Face Coverings in Residence Halls](#).
 - **Offices and Shared Work Spaces:** Employees and work study students do not need to wear a mask if they are alone in personal office space or work area. Masks must be worn whenever offices or work areas are shared.
 - **Outdoors:** Fully vaccinated individuals are not required to wear masks outside. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated must wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.
 - **Public Access to Campus**
 - Campus is closed to the general public with the following exceptions:

- Admissions tours and guests;
 - Parents and family members;
 - Spectators at athletic events;
 - Invited speakers or guests for meetings and events;
 - Contractors and other campus service providers;
 - Fully vaccinated guests in University residence halls (registration required).
- The University will update the community on or before Oct. 4 regarding a continuation or change to the requirement.
- **Microsoft Critical Vulnerability.** Microsoft is warning users about a vulnerability that is being actively exploited by booby-trapping Microsoft Office files. Please be wary of any Microsoft Office files being emailed to you. Make sure to verify they are coming from the listed source before opening them. [This article](#) provides additional details.

You should expect your next regular update on Monday, September 20, 2021.

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 Resource