



Sept. 27, 2021

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](#).

Mask Requirement Extended Until at Least October 25

Because COVID-19 case activity remains high in Lackawanna and surrounding counties, **the University will extend its mask requirement and access restrictions at least through Monday, October 25.**

As a reminder, masks will continue to be required as follows:

- **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.
- Individuals may continue wearing masks at all times if they wish.
- **Guidance on Masks:** Note that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides [specific guidance on selecting and properly wearing masks](#).

Public Access to Campus

- Campus is closed to the general public with the following exceptions:
 - Admissions tours and guests (**including guests attending Open House on Oct. 24 or Nov. 7**);
 - 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).
- Campus buildings are accessed by Royal Card only.

Once again, **these provisions will remain in place at least through Monday, October 25**. We will announce any continuation or change on or before that date.

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 20 to September 26:

- One student reported symptoms and tested positive on campus, one student tested positive through off-campus test sites, and no 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. Contact tracing was not necessary since there were no close contacts for this case.

Reported Positive Student Cases: 2

Students in isolation: 0

Students in quarantine: 0

Students meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 12

Reported Positive Employee Cases: 1

Employees in isolation: 2

Employees in quarantine: 1

Employees meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine/isolation: 2

*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

- **The University celebrated the [Inauguration of Rev. Joseph G. Marina, S.J.](#) as the 29th President** on Friday, September 24, and welcomed family members participating in the annual **Family Weekend**.

You should expect your next regular update on Monday, October 4, 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 Resources