



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 September 13, at which time the University will update the campus to any changes in the Weekly Update.

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 August 30 to September 5:

- One student tested positive through surveillance testing, one student reported symptoms and tested positive on campus, and one student tested positive in the quarantine testing protocol. 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 or through Non-University testing. One employee is in isolation due to reported symptoms.

Reported Positive Student Cases: 3

Students in isolation: 3

Students in quarantine: 0

Students meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 0

Reported Positive Employee Cases: 0

Employees in isolation: 1

Employees in quarantine: N/A

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

- Rev. Joseph Marina, S.J., President of The University of Scranton, [sent students information](#) regarding the **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund**. Students wishing to apply for funds to address exceptional needs can complete an online application available in the Student Tab of my.scranton. The application will be available until 4:30 pm on Sunday, September 26.
- Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D., Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, informed the University community that the dates for commencement weekend have been moved one week earlier to May 20-22, 2022. **Both the graduate and undergraduate ceremonies will be held at the Mohegan Sun Arena on Saturday, May 21. A Baccalaureate Mass will be held on campus on Sunday, May 22.** The decision to change the date was made out of concern for health and safety. The new date makes it possible for students to return home sooner by holding Commencement immediately following final exam week. Additional details for the ceremonies are forthcoming and will be available on the [Commencement 2022 website](#).

- The University will hold its annual **Mass of the Holy Spirit at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 9, in the Byron Recreation Complex.** A picnic will immediately follow on the the DeNaples Campus Green.
- **Mailing Services Update:** Last week's storm has resulted in a backlog of student packages. Accordingly, **the DeNaples Mailroom will remain open until 6 p.m. today, September 7.**
- **Packages for University Offices will need to be picked up by offices from the main Printing and Mailing Facility at 315 Jefferson up to and including September 10.** Letter mail will continue to be delivered to offices.

You should expect your next regular update on Monday, September 13, 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