



January 23, 2023

Dear Members of the University Community,

As we begin the Spring 2023 semester, we wanted to send a reminder regarding the University's Campus Health and Safety protocols related to the pandemic.

### **Campus Reporting and Communication**

The most current and comprehensive information regarding these protocols can be found on the University's [Campus Health and Safety website](#). Links to this page can be found on the University's [About Us page](#) and the [Student Health Services page](#).

Campus health and safety updates will be sent as needed rather than on a weekly basis. Reports of positive cases for students and employees will be tracked with weekly updates posted to the [Reporting and Supplies page](#) of the Campus Health and Safety website.

### **Reporting Positive Cases**

Students and employees must report positive cases to Student Health Services and Human Resources, respectively. Students should utilize the COVID-19 Positive Test Reporting Form located on the MyScranton Student Tab (Student Resources > COVID-19 Positive Test Reporting Form) for initial reporting with follow-up thereafter from Student Health Services. Employees should contact Human Resources at 570-941-7767 or via email at [hr@scranton.edu](mailto:hr@scranton.edu).

Faculty will continue to be notified of student COVID-related absences through the Provost's Office. Faculty will be notified of all other excused student absences by their Dean's Office.

### **Isolation and Exposure**

**Isolation for Positive Cases:** Following the CDC's guidance, infected persons must isolate if they receive a positive test. Students and employees must isolate at home. In exceptional circumstances where students are unable to isolate at home, Residence Life will work with students to confirm an isolation location on campus. Infected persons may end isolation after five days when they are without a fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medication and all other symptoms have improved. They should continue to wear a well-fitted, higher-grade mask around others through day 10.

**Exposure to Someone Testing Positive:** The CDC no longer recommends quarantine for exposed persons, regardless of vaccination status. Following the CDC's guidance, persons who have had recent confirmed or suspected exposure to an infected person should wear a well-fitted, higher-grade mask or double mask for 10 days around others when indoors in public. Individuals should secure a PCR test five days after exposure (or sooner, if they are symptomatic), irrespective of their vaccination status. Students and employees can get PCR testing through a [regional testing outlet](#).

### **Vaccine Exempted Individuals:**

Individuals who have received an exemption from the University's vaccine requirement will no longer be required to participate in weekly campus-based PCR testing and will no longer be required to use the wellness screening application.

### **Other Portions of Plan Continue**

Other portions of the Campus Health and Safety plan remain unchanged from the fall semester. [Vaccine requirements](#) for employees and students attending classes on campus remain in effect, with booster shots highly recommended for individuals following CDC eligibility guidelines. The campus remains [open to the general public](#). In-person student internships, community service and community-based learning participation are permitted on- and off-campus. Students must

follow pandemic safety protocols as required by their internship or volunteer service host site.

[Indoor masking in all campus buildings remains optional](#) for all members of the University community and guests regardless of vaccination status. Please note, **instructors can require that well-fitted, higher-grade masks** or double masks be worn in instructional spaces (e.g. classrooms, laboratories). **Employees and students can also require individuals to wear well-fitted, higher-grade masks** or double masks in their personal workspaces or residence hall rooms, respectively. No explanation is required for these requests. **Individuals are free to continue wearing masks at all times should they wish to do so.**

**Higher-grade masks are available for students through the Printing & Mailing Services**, at 315 Jefferson Avenue, during the day and at University Police in the Parking Pavilion in the evenings. **Departments can continue to obtain masks and other personal protective equipment** by completing an [online ordering form](#) and emailing it to the Purchasing Department.

[HVAC adjustments made in response to COVID](#) will remain in place and personal air purifiers distributed on campus to residence halls and offices without HVAC systems will continue to be maintained.

The University will continue to monitor developments and will adjust our response accordingly if needed.

We wish you all the best for the upcoming academic year and look forward to your return to campus.

Sincerely,

Michelle Maldonado, Ph.D.  
Interim Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Lauren S. Rivera, J.D, M.Ed.  
Interim Vice President for Student Life & Dean of Students

Patricia L. Tetreault  
Vice President for Human Resources