



January 21, 2021

Dear Students:

I hope you are doing well and looking forward to the Spring 2021 semester. As promised in the weekly update, this email provides information about entry testing for Spring 2021, our residence hall opening plan, and surveillance testing. We are anxious for you to return to campus and have been preparing to resume campus life together safely. We do that with appreciation for your hard work and dedication in the Fall. As a result of your efforts, we completed the fall semester with minimal interruptions and no documented cases of COVID-19 spreading in the classroom.

We learned from the fall and made some important changes to the [Royals Safe Together Plan](#). Please review the plan in its entirety before you return, as you will be required to adhere to it throughout the semester.

Entry Testing Mandatory for All Students

All students, undergraduate and graduate, are required to submit a recent negative COVID-19 PCR test result (or a positive result from on or after October 31, 2020) via their [Student Health Portal](#) in order to be granted access to campus. **This applies to residential, commuting, and off-campus students who will come to campus this semester. For the safety of our community, students cannot access campus until this result is received and verified by University personnel.** Note that if you tested positive at the end of the Fall 2020 semester on campus, we already have record of your test.

Given [Pennsylvania travel guidelines](#), the University will require all student COVID tests to be administered within 72 hours prior to your return to campus. All COVID-19 tests must be PCR tests, and be dated as follows:

- Commuting students - On or after January 28
- Off-campus students - On or after January 28
- Residential students - Based on assigned return date as per schedule below

Please self-quarantine while awaiting test results. Test results must be uploaded to your [Student Health Portal](#). Your lab result must include your name, the date of the sample, the type of test (PCR), and the result. **Results will be reviewed by University staff, and you will receive a confirmation email when you are approved to access campus.**

Students who were already approved to return to campus during Intersession should not travel between the end of Intersession and the start of the Spring Semester. Students, approved for Intersession campus access and who continue to live at their current location without leaving the state, do not need to provide an additional test result.

If you test positive prior to returning to campus, you must complete the required ten-day isolation before you can access campus. In this situation, please contact the Dean of Students Office, 570-941-7680, to ensure your faculty are notified that you will need accommodations.

Staggered Schedule for Residence Hall Opening

To accommodate the return of students, Residence Life has set up a staggered return to the residence halls. Please review this schedule of dates and the corresponding dates for your COVID test:

Residential Population	Anticipated Date of Return to Campus*	COVID-19 PCR Test Administration Date
Juniors, Seniors, and Graduate Students	Friday, January 29	On or after Tuesday, January 26
Sophomores	Saturday, January 30	On or after Wednesday, January 27
First Year Students	Sunday, January 31	On or after Thursday, January 28

*Pending confirmation of test results

Spring Semester Surveillance Testing Begins February 8

The University will continue to facilitate community surveillance testing this semester. Students should anticipate being called to test in the Long Center every 3-4 weeks. Testing will occur on Mondays and Tuesdays beginning on Monday, February 8. Information about Surveillance Testing will be shared with the entire University Community in the coming week.

Q&A Session Scheduled for January 25

Student Government will host a Q&A with me and Dr. Jeff Gingerich, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, on Monday, Jan. 25, at 8 p.m. to answer questions students have about the spring semester, campus reopening, and COVID-19 procedures and guidelines. Students must pre-register [here](#) to receive the Zoom link and can submit questions ahead of time or ask them live at the event.

Lastly, if you have questions about your schedule options for the Spring semester, please contact your academic advisor to discuss your options and available methods of course delivery. If you have questions about Entry Testing, please contact studentlife@scranton.edu, or review the FAQs on the [Student Health Services Website](#).

Thank you for your attention to this important information as it will help to ensure a safe and healthy start to the semester for the campus community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Davis