



April 21, 2022

Dear Members of the University Community,

The University is implementing the following updates to protocols in the Royals Back Together Plan **for the Summer and Fall of 2022.**

SUMMER 2022

Campus Safety Measures

- **Masks: Indoor masking in all campus buildings is optional for all members of the University community regardless of vaccination status, with the following notable exceptions:**
 - Instructors can require that well-fitted, higher-grade masks or double masks be worn in instructional spaces (e.g. classrooms, laboratories). No explanation is required.
 - Employees and students can 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.
 - Anyone identified as being in close contact with a known positive case must continue to follow all [protocols in the Royals Back Together plan](#), including the requirement for [up-to-date vaccinated individuals](#) (fully vaccinated with booster shot if eligible) to wear a mask and maintain social distance until getting a negative PCR test.

There are many reasons why an individual may continue wearing a mask. We must all respect and support individuals who continue wearing masks on campus.

- **Visitors:** Campus will be **open to visitors and the general public** beginning with the start of summer term on **May 24**. Visitors must follow all safety protocols and **be prepared to wear a mask** should they enter a workspace or area that requires masking.

- **Building Access:** Some buildings will be returned to pre-pandemic access, where buildings were open for specified hours each day. Other campus buildings will remain accessible by Royal Card only. Additional information about access to campus buildings will be provided in the coming weeks.

Requirements for Outside Groups

- All groups must provide a health and safety plan that must include the following:
 - provisions to address positive cases, including contact tracing, notifications, isolation, quarantine; and
 - requirement for daily health screenings; and
 - organizing overnight group attendees into clusters or pods as much as possible.
- All groups must abide by the Royals Back Together safety provisions, including all posted signage, prevention and enforcement.
- Groups must identify a COVID-19 contact person who will be responsible for the following:
 - notifying the University of any symptomatic attendees or attendees who test positive after arrival; and
 - responding to any concerns or complaints about non-compliance with the Royals Back Together provisions.

FALL 2022

COVID Vaccine Mandate Remains in Place

- **The University requires that all students attending in-person classes or accessing campus for other reasons in the Fall of 2022 provide proof of being fully vaccinated by August 01, 2022. All employees are required to provide an attestation that they are fully vaccinated.**
 - Vaccine Exemption Requests
 - Students may request a medical or religious **vaccine exemption** in accordance with applicable law. For questions about the vaccine requirements, students may contact Student Health Services at vaccines@scranton.edu.
 - Employees can request a vaccine exemption, in accordance with applicable law, by contacting Elizabeth Garcia, Esq., Special Assistant to the President, Executive Director for the Office of

Equity and Diversity, and Title IX Coordinator
at elizabeth.garcia2@scranton.edu.

University Strongly Recommends Remaining Up-to-Date with Vaccination

- The University **strongly recommends but does not require** that students and employees [stay “up to date” with COVID-19 vaccinations](#). This includes receiving one or more booster shots if eligible to do so. Individuals are encouraged to consult with their healthcare professional regarding COVID-19 booster shots.
- The University **previously mandated one booster shot** for all students and employees. Since implementing this mandate, guidance on booster shots has evolved, with some individuals now eligible for a fourth vaccine dose. As the pandemic response evolves nationally, it is clear that individuals will need to make informed choices about COVID booster shots. **The University reserves the right to revisit future mandates for booster shots depending on circumstances.**

We will continue to monitor developments and will adjust our response accordingly.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Davis Jr., Ed.D.
Vice President for Student Life

Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D.
Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Patricia L. Tetreault
Vice President for Human Resources