



August 21, 2020

Dear Students,

It has been great to have campus come alive this week with students back in Scranton. Thank you for all you are doing for the health and safety of our community.

When it comes to reconnecting with one another and engaging with faculty, staff, and students, please be reminded of the expectations from the [Royals Safe Together Plan](#). These expectations apply both on- and off-campus.

- **Social Distancing:** When gathering, we must maintain 6' social distancing between you and other people who are not your roommates/apartment mates. This is important because of knowledge of how COVID-19 spreads in communities.
- **Face Coverings:** We must wear appropriate face coverings at all times even when you are social distancing except as outlined in the Royals Safe Together Plan.
 - o Face shields and masks with exhalation valves/vents are not permitted based on CDC recommendations.

If you attend a social gathering on- or off-campus, then you must follow these requirements.

- **Gathering Size:** In all cases, social gatherings off-campus may not exceed 25 people, including the residents of the house or apartment hosting, but should be smaller if social distancing cannot be maintained.

If you host a gathering on- or off-campus, then you are responsible for ensuring compliance with the size of your gatherings. You must also enforce all other safety measures (face coverings and social distancing).

The University will not tolerate behavior that endangers the health and well-being of the campus community. For example, several students were referred to the Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action, including some who faced interim suspensions, as a result of off-campus gatherings last weekend that did not comply with the expectations above. I cannot stress enough that the health and safety of everyone on campus is a shared responsibility that each of us must take seriously.

As we settle into the semester, I encourage connect with others in safe ways, such connections are what sustain us during uncertain times. Check [RoyalSync](#) for opportunities hosted by

different departments, USPB, clubs, and organizations. Plan to visit the Student Activities Fair, which is scheduled for 8/29 on Fitzpatrick Field (Rain Date: 8/30). Consider visiting the Fitness Center or exercising outside, with a mask on, while the weather is nice. It's also a good time to consider new hobbies that get you away from the computer screen for a bit!

Good luck to you as you dive into your coursework for the current semester. We in Student Life are here to offer our support in any way that we can!

Take good care!

Dr. Davis



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