



July 15, 2020

Dear Members of the University Community,

First, I hope that you are all well and that the summer is giving you a chance to rest and recharge.

As promised, we have been hard at work developing plans for a return to campus-based instruction in August. I have previously announced changes to the academic calendar. Today, I want to share additional information as part of a plan we are calling “[Royals Safe Together](#)” because it represents both our shared goal and our shared responsibility.

As we release our plans I want to note three important points:

1. Our plan must continue to adapt to changing circumstances.
As you can see from ever-present news coverage, the SARS-CoV-2 virus is continuing to infect people across every state, with infection rates rising in many areas. We do not yet know how the progression of the virus will impact Pennsylvania and our plans.
2. Parts of the plan are necessarily incomplete.
We are continuing to work on several important elements of our plan, which means that additional information will be shared as the summer continues.
3. Cooperation and commitment are essential.
Health experts consistently agree that personal responsibility is critical to limiting the spread of the virus. Any plan we prepare will fail unless members of the University community embrace their individual responsibility to keep themselves and other members of our community safe and healthy.

I am grateful to the many members of our University community who have contributed and are contributing to our plans and preparations. We will continue to provide regular updates as the summer progresses.

What I said back in March remains true today. We must carefully and calmly prepare to respond to the next phase of the COVID-19 outbreak in ways that are grounded in our Catholic and Jesuit mission and in the commitment to community that defines and distinguishes us. We are here to educate our students and to help them achieve their goals and aspirations. We must be creative in choosing appropriate and necessary measures that respond to the virus but also support our students. Above all, I ask for your prayers for the University community. At a time such as this, we are challenged to find God's will for us and act in accordance with it.

May God bless you, may God bless Catholic and Jesuit education, and may God bless The University of Scranton.

Sincerely,

Scott R. Pilarz, S.J.
President

[Royals Safe Together – A Plan to Reopen Campus](#)