



Dear Members of the University Community,

Since the pandemic began, the University planned and adapted based on state and federal guidance and directives, the best available scientific advice, and circumstances within our campus and surrounding community. We acted proactively through the [Royals Safe Together plan](#), which places the health and safety of our community at the center of our decisions.

Future planning is similarly grounded in guidance, directives, science, circumstances, health and safety. Based on the trajectory of the virus and vaccinations, we are prepared to announce preliminary plans for summer and fall 2021:

Plans for Summer 2021

Consistent with the [recently announced decision](#) regarding Commencement weekend, the University will begin to open campus for in-person events and activities. In person summer activities will include orientation sessions for the Class of 2025, ongoing admissions tours, some classes and laboratories, University-sponsored summer programs, and conferences and camps conducted by outside groups.

All campus events and activities will strictly follow capacity limits established by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and our Royals Safe Together health and safety requirements. Health and safety requirements include social distancing and mask wearing.

The campus will remain closed to the general public during the summer.

Plans for Fall 2021

While much can change between now and August, the University plans to offer undergraduate and graduate classes fully in-person in fall 2021, excluding graduate programs that are traditionally online. Implementing a fully in-person approach will depend on a number of factors, including vaccination and infection rates, and will demand that we retain many of the safety measures now in place.

Classes are expected to begin as planned on Monday, August 30, 2021, with Fall Welcome Weekend scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, August 28-29.

Additional details about summer and fall plans will be shared in the coming weeks.

We have succeeded thus far in responding to the pandemic because our care and concern for each other has inspired personal responsibility and sacrifice. We have also learned the essential value of patience and flexibility. **All plans must, therefore, be subject to change based on guidance, directives, science, circumstances, health and safety.**

I am confident that our love for each other and for the University will continue to inspire the best in us as we strive to remain Royals Safe Together.

Sincerely,

Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D.

Acting President

Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs