



Dear Members of the University Community,

The University will continue to send regular updates once per week, typically on Mondays, regarding Royals Back Together. Other notices will be sent by our President, members of Cabinet or members of the University community when necessary.

**The most up-to-date information will continue to be posted at [Royals Back Together webpage](#).**

**Currently [masks are required indoors](#) regardless of vaccination status. The campus is only open to members of the University community and invited guests. [The requirements will remain in place through to Oct. 4.](#)**

### **Report of Active Cases of SARS-CoV-2 on Campus**

The University will report positive cases of the SARS-CoV-2 virus on campus. For the fall semester, unvaccinated University community members, who were granted a waiver due to medical or religious reason, must participate in weekly surveillance testing. Vaccinated individuals who have been identified through contact tracing as being exposed to someone who tested positive, would also be tested three to five days after exposure. Data for students and employees will be reported each week.

### **Campus Metrics Summary for September 13 to September 19:**

- One student reported symptoms and tested positive on campus, and three students tested positive through off-campus test sites, and no students tested positive during the testing protocols following exposure to COVID-19. All students testing positive are in isolation. University contact tracers identified and notified individuals of possible exposure and the protocols for testing and, if necessary, quarantine.

- No employees tested positive through the University surveillance tests. Two employees tested positive through non-University testing. Contact tracing has been completed.

Reported Positive Student Cases: 4

Students in isolation: 7

Students in quarantine: 3

Students meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 6

Reported Positive Employee Cases: 2

Employees in isolation: 3

Employees in quarantine: 0

Employees meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine/isolation: 1

\*Note: Information provided reflects activity within a given week. Because the general timeframe for isolation and quarantine overlaps with weekly reporting, numbers between weeks will differ.

### Key Information

- The University reported last week that **more than 96% of students, faculty and staff are fully vaccinated** – **nearly 96 percent of students and more than 97 percent of staff and faculty**. The University expects these percentages to increase even more in the coming weeks as individuals with one dose of the vaccine receive their second dose.
  - Vaccination rates above 90% were found to be important for resuming normal campus activity, according to a recently released study in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

### Updates

- The University will celebrate **the Inauguration of Rev. Joseph G. Marina, S.J., as the 29th President on Friday, September 24**, at 11 a.m. Inauguration events include an **Inauguration Mass** on Saturday, September 25 at 4 p.m. in the Byron Recreation Complex, and a **Family Weekend President's Concert** on Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m. in the Houlihan McLean Center. Guests can view current campus health and safety guidelines at the Royals Back Together webpage.

- **Reminder – Application Deadline for Emergency Grants:** Students wishing to apply for [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding](#) **must do so before 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 26.** To apply, students must complete an online application available on the Student Tab of my.scranton.

**You should expect your next regular update on Monday, September 27, 2021.**

Sincerely,

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

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

Patricia Tetreault  
Vice President for Human Resources