



May 19, 2021

Dear Members of the University Community,

Grounded in our Catholic and Jesuit mission, and in a commitment to community that defines and distinguishes us, our Royals Safe Together plan begins by acknowledging that we have a shared responsibility to keep each other safe. Vaccination against the SARS-CoV-2 virus is now the best way to ensure the health and safety of our communities.

We have learned from our own experiences and from the tragic losses across our nation and the world that the virus can spread quickly and that the disease it causes, COVID-19, can have devastating, even deadly results. Vaccines are the best defense against the virus and its variants and they are most effective when everyone is vaccinated. Current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and advice from medical experts with whom we have consulted fully support this thinking.

During a recent campus-based vaccination clinic, nearly 1,000 students, faculty and staff were vaccinated. We know from student surveys that hundreds of others are already fully vaccinated, reflecting that vaccines are now widely available. These levels of vaccination are encouraging but not enough.

In an effort to best protect our campus and surrounding community, the President's Cabinet and I have decided that **all students attending in-person classes or accessing campus for other reasons in the fall must be fully vaccinated by August 27, 2021.**

Students are encouraged to get their vaccine as soon as possible to meet this requirement for the fall semester. As a reminder, full vaccination differs depending on which vaccine you receive. If you receive the Pfizer vaccine, then you must get your first shot on or before July 23 and your second shot on or before August 13 to be compliant. For the Moderna vaccine, the first shot must be on or before July 16 and your second shot by August 13. For the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, you must receive your vaccine by August 13. **Students coming to campus early (e.g. resident assistants and student-athletes) must be fully vaccinated before their arrival, which means these deadlines may be sooner.**

The University will follow its [Vaccination Policy](#) for the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine. As with other required vaccinations, students may request a waiver in accordance with Pennsylvania law. If you have questions about the vaccine requirements, you may contact Student Health Services at vaccines@scranton.edu.

Students who have already been vaccinated can upload their vaccine card to their [Student Health Portal](#) by following the link and choosing the COVID-19 Vaccine Card option.

Based on a recent survey of faculty and staff, most have already chosen to get fully vaccinated. **We expect that faculty and staff will choose to be vaccinated before the Fall semester for their own safety and the safety of their families and communities.** While we are not mandating vaccination at this time for employees, we continue to discuss this possibility, and reserve the right to do so in the future.

[Vaccination information](#) is available through the Royals Safe Together website.

Having a fully vaccinated campus will enable us to plan for a more normal, fully in-person experience with less disruption from testing, isolation and quarantine. We will be able to benefit safely from national and state trends to relax requirements.

Saint Ignatius reminds us that love is shown in deeds, not in words. As we have since the pandemic began, we must now manifest our love for each other and for our community by getting vaccinated and by continuing to follow the protocols necessary to keep ourselves and each other *Royals Safe Together*.

I pray that you and your families have a safe and restful summer.

Sincerely,

Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D.

Acting President, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs