



July 2, 2021

Dear Friends,

As you know, the University announced the good news in May that the Fall 2021 semester will be conducted in-person with the exception of classes typically offered online. Preparations and planning will continue throughout the summer with the intention of creating the safest possible conditions for a return to “normal” operations.

Toward that end, I would like to update you on the important and time sensitive topic of vaccinations. In early June, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released guidelines for colleges and universities with regard to the coming school year. The guidance is clear that vaccination is essential for returning to the in-person campus experience we enjoyed before the pandemic struck and which is and has been a hallmark of our identity.

Shortly before my arrival, the University announced its vaccination requirement for all students. At that time, we noted the expectation and hope that faculty and staff would also be vaccinated for the sake of their own health and that of their families and communities. The data we have indicates that most of you have done so and I am very grateful for that.

**Based on the guidance available to us, we now ask that all faculty and staff be fully vaccinated and that they do so no later than August 27, 2021.**

As a reminder, the meaning of full vaccination depends on which vaccine you are given. If you receive the Pfizer vaccine, then you should get your first dose on or before July 23 and your second dose on or before August 13 to be ready for the fall semester. For the Moderna vaccine, the first dose should be received on or before July 16 and the second dose by August 13. For the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, you must receive your singular dose no later than August 13.

The University is partnering with RiteAid to offer assistance for faculty and staff who choose to use this venue. If you would like assistance in getting your vaccine, please complete the Vaccination Appointment Form for Faculty and Staff, and the Center for Health Education & Wellness will help you to make an appointment with RiteAid.

You may request an exemption from the vaccination requirement, in accordance with applicable law, by contacting Elizabeth Garcia, Esq., Special Assistant to the President, Executive Director for the Office of Equity and Diversity, and Title IX Coordinator at [elizabeth.garcia2@scranton.edu](mailto:elizabeth.garcia2@scranton.edu).

In the coming weeks, the Office of Human Resources will communicate information to faculty and staff about how to log their vaccination status and what protocols unvaccinated individuals will need to follow if they are granted an exemption. In the meantime, if you have questions about the vaccine requirement, please contact Human Resources at [hr@scranton.edu](mailto:hr@scranton.edu).

As I mentioned in my previous message this week, I am deeply impressed by the love that members of our community show for Scranton and for each other. I know that each of us is committed to a safe and healthy school environment, and I appreciate you doing your part to ensure your safety and the safety of others.

Prayers and best wishes for a fine celebration of Independence Day and, hopefully, some time to rest.

Yours faithfully,  
Fr. Marina

Fr. Joseph Marina, SJ  
University of Scranton  
800 Linden Street  
Scranton, PA 18510  
(570)941-7500  
[www.scranton.edu](http://www.scranton.edu)