



January 19, 2021

Dear Members of the University Community,

The University will continue to send regular updates once per week on Mondays regarding Royals Safe Together – A Plan to Reopen Campus. Other notices will be sent by the President, other members of Cabinet or members of the University community when necessary.

Up-to-date information will continue to be posted at [Royals Safe Together – A Plan to Reopen Campus](#).

Key Information

- Robert W. Davis Jr., Ed.D, Vice President for Student Life, will send **information later this week with details regarding COVID-19 test requirements for students returning to campus for the spring semester**, which begins on Feb. 1. The message will also include information regarding the opening dates for residence halls, as well as plans for campus surveillance tests for the spring semester.
- **Vaccine Information for Employees:** The University continues to monitor information from the Pennsylvania Department of Health regarding the availability of vaccine distribution. **We anticipate being able to share additional information later this week regarding vaccination availability for employees.** The most up-to-date information regarding the status of vaccine distribution in Pennsylvania can be seen [here](#).

Updates

- Student Government will host a **Q&A with Robert W. Davis Jr., Ed.D, Vice President for Student Life, and Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D., Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, on Monday, Jan. 25, at 8 p.m. to**

answer questions students have about the spring semester, campus reopening, and COVID-19 procedures and guidelines. Students must pre-register [here](#) to receive the Zoom link and can submit questions ahead of time, or ask them live at the event.

- The University, together with the Landmark Conference, has announced plans [for resuming fall, winter and spring athletic competitions](#). Athletics will follow all NCAA Resocialization Guidelines as well as Landmark Conference Covid-19 Game Day Policies. Spectators are not allowed at competitions at this time. The [Men's and Women's basketball games](#) are set to begin on Feb. 9. The games will be live streamed on the new [Landmark Conference Digital Network](#). Swimming and Diving are set to begin Feb 13. Fall sports, whose seasons were postponed, will begin in March. Spring sports will begin in March or April. More information, including schedules and championship information, will be posted on [athletics.scranton.edu](#) when it becomes available.
- **The campus will remain closed to visitors and the general public during the spring semester**, except by appointment (e.g. Admissions visitors). This includes the use of the Weinberg Memorial Library. For the spring semester, the University has again prioritized the use of all campus facilities to support student instruction and other essential needs. As a result, **in-person, indoor campus events will continue to be prohibited, with the exception of events that are core to the University's mission, such as liturgy, Admissions and Commencement**. If the use of a non-instructional room is required for an event that is core to the University's mission, that event must first be approved by the appropriate dean/vice president or designee prior to scheduling the event. In-person, indoor meetings, including committee and departmental gatherings, are strongly discouraged during the spring semester. Decisions regarding plans for Commencement will be made later in the spring semester.
- The University will continue to provide academic and administrative departments with Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to meet unique teaching, research and work requirements. **Departments are reminded to review and monitor their PPE supplies and request additional supplies as needed**, allowing 7-10 day days for supplies to be delivered to the department. Requests for PPE supplies can be made by contacting the Purchasing Department through [an online ordering form](#).

- **The DeNaples Mailroom will reopen Jan. 25**, and will be open from 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. from Jan. 25 – 29. **Spring semester hours for the DeNaples Mailroom will resume Feb. 1**, with operating hours of 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The DeNaples Mailroom will also be open from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. for three Saturdays at the beginning of the spring semester: Jan. 30, Feb. 6 and Feb. 13. Additionally, the DeNaples Mailroom will be open until 5 p.m. on Feb. 11, 12 and 13 for Valentine’s Week. The DeNaples Mailroom can be reached at 570-941-4282.
- At 5:30 p.m. tonight, the University will participate in a **national moment of remembrance** by lighting The Estate and the Class of 2020 Gateway in amber to honor the lives lost to COVID-19. Since early in the pandemic, the Class of 2020 Gateway has illuminated a red cross with a blue background each evening to honor those who are bravely and selflessly responding during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially our alumni and members of the University community.

You should expect your next regular update on Monday, Jan. 25, 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