



February 1, 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

- Rev. Herbert B. Keller, S.J., Vice President for Mission and Ministry, sent **information about [Sunday and Weekday Masses for the spring semester](#)**. Sunday Mass will be offered at 7 p.m. in the Byron Recreation Complex while school is in session. Weekday Masses will be offered in the Madonna della Strada Chapel on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 12:05 p.m. from Feb. 3 thru May 20. Sunday Mass will be held at 4 p.m. on Feb. 7 due to the Super Bowl, and special Masses will be held for Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday and Ascension Thursday. Because of the pandemic, Masses on campus are limited to current students, faculty and staff of the University. Royal Card access is required and other Royals Safe Together protocols will be followed.
- Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D., Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, sent a message to University students to clarify the University's "**snow day**" **policy for the spring semester** now that some classes are offered in a remote format.
 - **When the University cancels classes, that applies to all classes, both in-person and remote.**

- While classes will not be held during snow days, faculty may ask students to review readings or assignments. **Faculty are allowed to assign materials** to help students keep up with course material when classes are cancelled.
- **The only exception to this policy will be the graduate online “special term” classes**, which have always traditionally continued to meet even when snow days are announced. These classes will continue to meet unless the faculty member chooses to cancel.
- **The University highlighted items of the Royals Safe Together Plan that have been updated** to meet the latest recommendations by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH). Information highlighted included student entry testing requirements; campus surveillance testing, which will begin on Feb. 8; revised CDC quarantine guidelines that now require 10 days of quarantine instead of 14; information about the vaccine and vaccination; the return of athletic competition for fall, winter and spring sports following Landmark and NCAA health and safety guidelines; campus Masses; and class formats being offered and ongoing expectations regarding other aspects of the Royals Safe Together Plan.

Updates

- **Spring Semester reopening:** Students who provided the required negative COVID-19 PCR test result (or a positive result on or after Oct. 31, 2020) via their Student Health Portal and, after a review of the information, were granted access to campus from Student Life have returned to campus during the past weekend. **FAQs regarding the entry test requirements, quarantine and isolation** can be found on the [Student Health Services Website](#).
- Student Government is co-hosting a **Q&A with Joe Boyd, Director of Dining Services**, on Tuesday, **Feb 2, at 7:30 p.m.** Students are encouraged to attend to learn about their meal plans and Dining Services. Students must [pre-register](#) to receive the Zoom link and will be entered in for a chance to win \$300 in flex prizes for attending.
- At this time, there are no further updates regarding availability of the **vaccine** for 1B education workers/employees.

- **Recent CDC Guidance update related to mask recommendations:** in addition to the information regarding masks in the Royals Safe Together Plan, the CDC recommends:
 - Persons wearing gaiters should use **gaiters** with two layers, or fold one layer gaiters to make two layers.
 - **Scarves, ski masks and balaclavas are not substitutes for masks.** Wear your scarf, ski mask or balaclava over your CDC recommended mask.
 - Some experts are encouraging people to **double masks** for better protection relating to new virus strains. While double masks are not required, they are encouraged.
 - As mask recommendations change, we will notify the campus community. **For the most up to date information on masks,** visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>.
- The University will begin **spring semester surveillance testing for students and employees** who are on campus on Feb. 8. About 1,000 tests will be conducted each week. Students and employees should anticipate being called to test in the Long Center every 3 to 4 weeks.
- **Spring semester hours for the DeNaples Mailroom** are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. At the beginning of the semester, the mailroom will be open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays, Feb. 6 and Feb. 13. Additionally, the DeNaples Mailroom will be open until 5 p.m. on Feb. 10, 11 and 12 for Valentine's Week. The DeNaples Mailroom can be reached at 570-941-4282.

You should expect your next regular update on Monday, Feb. 8, 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

