



February 15, 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](#).**

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

As in the fall semester, the University has [instituted a practice to provide regular updates about positive cases](#) of the SARS-CoV-2 virus on campus. Surveillance testing data for students and employees will be reported each week.

**Surveillance Tests: The University is continuing surveillance tests for all students, faculty and staff on campus** in a proactive effort to identify individuals with the SARS-CoV-2 virus, especially when they do not have symptoms. Identifying positive cases through this process was our intention and expectation. Doing so helps isolate individuals who may be contagious but never develop symptoms. Members of the University community who have tested positive do not need to be tested again for three months. **Those who have been vaccinated must still participate in campus surveillance testing.**

### **Summary of Positive Cases on Campus for Feb. 8 to Feb. 14\***

- The University conducted 979 surveillance tests of students and employees with a weekly positivity rating of 0.51%. The cumulative positivity rate on surveillance testing this semester is .53% on 1,126 tests processed.

- Five students tested positive through surveillance testing, nine reported symptoms and tested positive on campus, and three reported a positive test from an off-campus provider. All students testing positive are in isolation or completed the necessary isolation. University contact tracers identified and notified students to quarantine as per established protocols. Nineteen students were able to shorten their quarantine time frame due to the Quarantine Testing Protocols.
- No employees tested positive through screening tests. No employees were notified to quarantine based on University contact tracing or possible exposure outside of the University. Two (2) employees remain in isolation from the previous week.

Reported Positive Student Cases: 17

Students in isolation: 17

Students in quarantine: 12

Students meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine/isolation: 26

Reported Positive Employee Cases: 0

Employees in isolation: 2

Employees in quarantine: 0

Employees meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine/isolation: 5

\*Note: Information provided reflects activity within a given week. Because the general timeframe for isolation and quarantine (10 days) overlaps with weekly reporting, numbers between weeks will differ.

### Key Information

- Robert W. Davis Jr., Ed.D., Vice President for Student Life, and Patricia Tetreault, Vice President for Human Resources, sent information to [students](#) and [employees](#), respectively, regarding LabPass accounts and surveillance test results. **Students, faculty and staff need to access their LabPass account prior to their scheduled appointments in order to review their results after being tested.** Following testing, students, faculty and staff will receive an email from LabPass when their results are available.
- **It is possible that a student or employee with a positive test result may know the result before the University contacts them. In these situations, the student must do the following until contacted:**

- wear a mask at all times, including in their room;
- refrain from leaving their room except to go to the bathroom;
- immediately avoid creating any new close contacts; and
- sanitize any common touch points.
- **If a faculty or staff members learns they are positive for SARS-CoV-2 through their LabPass Account**, they must remain at home and not report to campus.
- **Students and employees who test positive on campus will be notified in multiple ways.**
- Students with questions may contact [studentlife@scranton.edu](mailto:studentlife@scranton.edu) or [covidtesting@scranton.edu](mailto:covidtesting@scranton.edu).
- Faculty and staff with questions may contact [HRCovidScheduling@scranton.edu](mailto:HRCovidScheduling@scranton.edu).

## Updates

- Campus Ministries will hold **Ash Wednesday masses with distribution of ashes at noon, 4 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. in the Byron Recreation Complex on Feb. 17.** For more information about Ash Wednesday masses and other masses scheduled for the spring semester, visit the [Campus Ministries website](#).
- **Campus surveillance testing will follow the University's inclement weather delays and cancellations.** If an employee cannot make a scheduled COVID test appointment due to inclement weather, please notify Human Resources at [hrcovidscheduling@scranton.edu](mailto:hrcovidscheduling@scranton.edu) to reschedule your appointment.
- The CDC has issued "[interim clinical considerations for use of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines](#)" approved in the U.S. Among the considerations currently recommended is that **fully-vaccinated individuals with an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they meet all of the following criteria:**
  - have been fully vaccinated for at least two weeks following their second dose (if vaccine requires two doses);
  - are within three months following receipt of the last dose in the series;
  - have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure.

- **The CDC recommends that individuals who do not meet all three of the above criteria continue to follow current quarantine guidance** after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- **Students who are fully vaccinated are reminded to upload their vaccine information through the [student health portal](#).**
- The University's **Royals Safe Together Plan** requires individuals to wear **face coverings “in all areas on campus** both inside of buildings and outside of them and even if you are social distancing.” **Face masks are required even if you have received the COVID vaccine or you tested positive for COVID in the last 90 days.** Individuals who receive the COVID vaccine and/or were COVID positive in the last 90 days may still be carriers. Please help us to keep our campus safe by continuing to protect yourselves and each other.
- **Reservation Process for Study Rooms in Academic and Other Buildings.** As previously announced, the University has created a study room sign-up process for student to use the study rooms in academic and other buildings. Students intending to use study rooms in the Loyola Science Center (LSC), Brown Hall (BRN), Leahy Hall (ELH), Gavigan Hall (GAV) and McGurrin Hall (MGH) can and should **reserve the date(s) and time(s) through a [room reservation webpage](#).** Rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Anyone in the study rooms that did not sign-up to use the specific study room must vacate the area.

**You should expect your next regular update on Monday, Feb. 22, 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