



March 22, 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 our Acting President, Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D., and 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.

### **Summary of Positive Cases on Campus for Mar. 15 to Mar. 21\***

- The University conducted 1,109 surveillance tests of students and employees with a weekly positivity rating of 1.08%. The cumulative positivity rate on surveillance testing this semester is .45% on 6,117 tests processed. The total number of tests includes 45 tests from previous weeks that were not reported.
- Twelve students tested positive through surveillance testing, five reported symptoms and tested positive on campus, 10 reported a positive test from an off-campus provider, and one student tested positive in the quarantine testing protocol. 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. Fourteen students

were able to shorten their quarantine time frame due to the quarantine testing protocols.

- No employees tested positive through the University surveillance tests. Two employees tested positive through non-University tests. One employee reported the need to quarantine due to possible exposure outside of the University. Two employees were notified to quarantine based on University contact tracing. No employees remain in quarantine or isolation from the previous week.

Reported Positive Student Cases: 28

Students in isolation: 26

Students in quarantine: 30

Students meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 31

Reported Positive Employee Cases: 2

Employees in isolation: 2

Employees in quarantine: 3

Employees meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine/isolation: 2

\*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

- Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D., Acting President and Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, will provide an update on **plans for the summer and fall sometime this week.**
- Robert W. Davis Jr., Ed.D., Vice President for Student Life, provided students with **information regarding Easter break plans for campus**, which allow students to stay or leave campus during the break from Apr. 1 to Apr. 5.
  - **All students must inform the University of their Easter Break plans by completing an [Easter Break Preference Form](#) by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23.**
  - Students who choose to depart the Scranton area for the break will be scheduled for University surveillance testing during the weeks immediately following Easter.
  - The full message can be seen [here](#).

- **Commencement 2021 information** was sent to the University Community on Mar. 18 by Acting President Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D. Because of recent modifications in Pennsylvania's pandemic restrictions, the University has determined it **will hold in-person Commencement ceremonies for undergraduate and graduate students the weekend of May 22-23**, instead of the original dates of May 29-30. For health and safety reasons, the decision makes it possible for students to return home sooner by holding Commencement nearer to the submission of final grades. Consequently, traditional senior week activities will not occur.
  - In order to keep the overall attendance at any one event below the 2,500-person maximum limit allowed for indoor venues by Pennsylvania, the University will divide its traditional undergraduate ceremony into three distinct ceremonies (one per college or school) and hold the Graduate Commencement Ceremony at the Mohegan Sun Arena.
  - Each graduate will be provided four tickets for guests to attend the ceremony.
  - **The Graduate Commencement will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 22**, at the Mohegan Sun Arena.
  - **The Undergraduate Commencement ceremonies will be held on Sunday, May 23**, at the following times:
    - 9:30 a.m. Panuska College of Professional Studies Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony
    - 1 p.m. Kania School of Management Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony
    - 4:30 p.m. College of Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony
  - Additional information is available on the [commencement website](#).

## Updates

- Due to consistent reports of students disregarding safety rules, particularly the requirement to **wear masks at all times**, the LSC study rooms will be closed beginning tomorrow, Mar. 23, until Friday, Mar. 26. We will re-assess whether to re-open these rooms next week. Other study rooms are available on a first-signup-first serve around campus. To reserve a space in:

- Brown Hall  
visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f48a9aa28abfd0-spring>
- Brennan Hall, Gavigan Hall or Leahy Hall  
visit <https://www.scranton.edu/royals-safe-together/study-rooms.shtml>
- As a reminder, students who are coming to campus for the first time this semester for classes following internships, etc. are required to upload a recent negative PCR test result to their Student Health Portal as part of the University's **Entry Testing Requirements**. Once the result is uploaded, students should call Student Life at 570-941-7680 or email [studentlife@scranton.edu](mailto:studentlife@scranton.edu) so their result can be verified and card access restored.
- **Review and delete your Zoom cloud recordings:** The University's Zoom cloud storage is currently at 68% of its capacity. In an effort to allow for continued cloud storage, **we will be deleting all recordings from July 1 to Aug. 31, 2020, on Friday, Mar. 26**. Users can choose to delete their recording, or download them as an MP4 file and save to OneDrive, followed by deleting the recording from the cloud.
  - [Click here](#) for directions on how to access, download and delete your Zoom recording.

**You should expect your next regular update on Monday, Mar. 29, 2021.**

Sincerely,

Robert W. Davis Jr., Ed.D.  
Vice President for Student Life

Patricia Tetreault  
Vice President for Human Resources