



March 29, 2021

Dear Members of the University Community,

The University will continue to send regular updates once per week, typically 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. 22 to Mar. 28*

- The University conducted 1,079 surveillance tests of students and employees with a weekly positivity rating of .65%. The cumulative positivity rate on surveillance testing this semester is .49% on 7,196 tests processed.
- Six students tested positive through surveillance testing, three reported symptoms and tested positive on campus, five reported a positive test from an off-campus provider, and four students 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. Twenty-four students were able to shorten their quarantine time frame due to the quarantine testing protocols.

- One employee tested positive through the University surveillance tests and one employee tested positive through a non-University test. One employee was notified to quarantine based on University contact tracing. Two employees remain in quarantine or isolation from the previous week.

Reported Positive Student Cases: 18

Students in isolation: 15

Students in quarantine: 11

Students meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 30

Reported Positive Employee Cases: 2

Employees in isolation: 4

Employees in quarantine: 1

Employees meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine/isolation: 3

*Note: Information provided reflects activity within a given week. Because the general timeframe for isolation and quarantine 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, provided an update to the University community on **plans for the summer and the return to fully in-person classes for the fall semester.**
 - **The University will begin to open campus for in-person events and activities this summer**, which will include orientation sessions for the Class of 2025, ongoing admissions tours, some classes and laboratories, University-sponsored summer programs, and conferences and camps conducted by outside groups. Campus will remain closed to the general public.
 - **The University plans to offer undergraduate and graduate classes fully in-person in fall 2021**, excluding graduate programs that are traditionally online. Classes are expected to begin as planned on Monday, Aug. 30, with Fall Welcome Weekend scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 28-29.
 - Implementing a fully in-person approach will depend on a number of factors, including vaccination and infection rates,

and will demand that we retain many of the safety measures now in place.

- All plans are subject to change based on guidance, directives, science, circumstances, health and safety.
- The full message can be seen [here](#).

Updates

- **The University will observe Easter Break this week** with no scheduled classes from April 1 to April 5, and University offices closed from Good Friday, April 2, through to Easter Monday, April 5.
 - Robert W. Davis Jr., Ed.D., Vice President for Student Life, provided students with [information regarding Easter break plans for campus](#). Students who choose to depart the Scranton area for the break will be scheduled for University surveillance testing during the weeks immediately following Easter.
 - **Easter Break reminder for students on a meal plan:** Meal Plans are active until lunch on Thursday, April 1, and will be available after break starting with dinner on Monday, April 5. If you indicated that you will be on-campus or in Scranton previously, information will be shared with you this week on how to access meals during the break.
- Dr. Davis also informed student-athlete parents of the University's decision to continue the policy of [no spectators at home contests](#) **through the spring semester**. This decision adheres to the no guests policy in the Royals Safe Together Plan and is supported by the [NCAA Division III Philosophy Statement](#).

You should expect your next regular update on Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

Sincerely,

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

Patricia Tetreault
Vice President for Human Resources