



April 6, 2020

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. 29 to April 4*

- The University conducted 1,090 surveillance tests of students and employees with a weekly positivity rating of .83%. The cumulative positivity rate on surveillance testing this semester is .53% on 8,286 tests processed.
- Eight students tested positive through surveillance testing, four students reported symptoms and tested positive on campus, eight students 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. 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. One employee reported the need to quarantine due to possible exposure

outside of the University. Five employees were notified to quarantine based on University contact tracing. Two employees remain in quarantine or isolation from the previous week.

Reported Positive Student Cases: 20

Students in isolation: 16

Students in quarantine: 10

Students meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 33

Reported Positive Employee Cases: 1

Employees in isolation: 3

Employees in quarantine: 5

Employees meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine/isolation: 4

*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.

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 vaccinated must still participate in campus surveillance testing.

Key Information

- This week, Robert W. Davis, Jr., Ed.D., Vice President for Student Life, will e-mail students requesting their participation in a brief **COVID-19 vaccine interest survey** designed to gauge their interest in getting the vaccine on campus or in Scranton if the opportunity presents itself this semester.

Updates

- Pennsylvania Department of Health announced **dates of vaccine eligibility for education workers, who became eligible on April 5, and for the general population, which will become eligible on April 19.** The University

continues to monitor the situation and will inform faculty and staff by email if we become aware of availability of vaccine appointments in our region.

We would encourage those eligible who wish to receive a vaccine to continue to look for available appointments on their own. Information regarding the vaccine distribution sites in Pennsylvania can be seen [here](#).

- **Spring weather reminder: [Masking](#) requirements continue on campus, both indoors and outdoors.** This is particularly important when people gather outdoors as the weather improves. While eating meals outdoors, continue to maintain 6 feet of distance between yourself and others at your table, as not all picnic tables on campus are equipped with a barrier. Masks are required when alone in study rooms on campus and even if you have received the COVID vaccine or have 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.

You should expect your next regular update on Monday, April 12, 2021.

Sincerely,

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

Patricia Tetreault
Vice President for Human Resources