



August 17, 2020

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.

Get Up-to-date Information [at Royals Safe Together – A Plan to Reopen Campus](#).

Report of Active Cases of COVID-19 on Campus

The University has instituted a [practice to provide regular updates about active cases](#) of COVID-19 on campus. During the past week (**Aug. 10 to Aug. 16**), the University reports the following:

Campus Metrics Summary for Aug. 10 to Aug. 16

- **Three students reported testing positive and are in isolation.** One student is in isolation pending test results. University contact tracers identified and notified five students who needed to quarantine as per established protocols. Facilities Operations deep cleaned and disinfected all related areas on campus.
- **No employees reported testing positive.** From the previous week's activity, one employee remains in quarantine. One employee reported the need to quarantine due to possible exposure outside the University. Another was instructed by contact tracers to quarantine as a precaution based on responses to the Wellness Screening Application. No work areas required deep cleaning or disinfecting as a result of this week's activity.

Reported Positive Student Cases: 3
Students in Quarantine/Isolation: 9 (includes positive cases)
Students meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine/isolation: 0

Reported Positive Employee Cases: 0
Employees in Quarantine/Isolation: 3
Employees meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine/isolation: 4

Additional Details on Screening Tests for Campus

As an added safety measure, the University will implement Covid-19 screening tests beginning the week of Aug. 24, 2020. Due to availability issues, the University will use individual tests rather than the pooled testing approach previously announced. Individual test results will usually be available within 24 hours. We may shift to a pooled testing approach should it become available as the semester progresses.

All students who will attend on campus classes, including on- and off-campus students and commuters, are required to be tested. All employees who are on campus must also be tested. Royal Card access will be curtailed for students and employees not being tested because they are remote or because they refuse to be tested.

The University expects to collect 1,200 samples to be tested each week, meaning that students and employees on campus should **expect to be tested at least three times during the fall semester**. Student Health Services will coordinate testing for students and employees.

Samples will be collected with the following procedure:

- In order to assist with scheduling, students and employees will be placed in one of several groups.
- Each group will receive an invitation by email from which they can identify a testing appointment for the coming week.
- Testing appointments will be scheduled in 15-minute intervals with the actual test expected to take less than 10 minutes.
- Testing will take place in the rear court in the Long Center.
- Students and employees will enter through the walkway between the Byron Complex and Long Center and exit from the Long Center.

The University engaged Contamination Source Identification, LLC (CSI). CSI employs the FDA-recommended, TaqPath RT-QPCR COVID-19 test system. Test

samples will be gathered using through nasal swabbing. CSI has been certified by the Pennsylvania Department of Health to perform COVID-19 testing and is compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and The Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA).

As per guidance of Pennsylvania Department of Health, CSI will report all COVID-19 test results, positive and negative, to the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System. As per CLIA regulations, all specimen-associated data will be retained in CSI's secured, L7-Informatics Enterprise Science Platform Laboratory Information Management System, which is deployed in a HIPAA-compliant secured environment.

Key Information to Expect and Recent Communications

- **University of Scranton President Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J.**, sent a [video message](#) to students, faculty and staff, welcoming them back to campus for the fall semester and reminding all to follow health and safety guidelines put in place to keep themselves and others safe.
- The University **welcomed incoming and returning students to campus [this weekend](#)**. Classes for the fall semester for undergraduate and on-campus graduate students began today,
- **Complete Wellness Self-Screen Application Daily**. Students and employees are required to use the University's [wellness self-screening application](#) daily. The app can be accessed through the My.Scranton portal, the Scranton Mobile app, or directly at <https://www.scranton.edu/WellnessScreening>. The app includes a series of simple questions regarding symptoms as recommended by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. When symptoms are reported through the screening, the application will automatically notify the appropriate department for students or employees and provide additional instructions by email. The application does not store data from personal submissions.
- **Shared Responsibility and Plan Enforcement**. All members of the University community should first rely on **gentle reminders and constructive communications with students, faculty, staff or authorized visitors** who fail to adhere to wearing masks, social distancing or other guidelines contained in the Royals Safe Together Plan. Reporting students, faculty and staff should be a last resort and should only occur if the individual fails to comply with reasonable directions and requests of a University member. When members of the University community do not adhere to requests to comply with the Plan, information can be reported

to the University's Pandemic Safety Officer through a [secure online reporting form](#). The University will address non-compliance with important safety requirements through a **[Corrective Action and Discipline](#) approach** that is consistent with its established processes and procedures. For more information click [here](#).

Updates

- Now that school is back in session, staff and faculty members should **use the Facilities Department work order system to submit Plexiglas installation requests**. Submitting a work order is the fastest and best method to be placed on the list for Plexiglas installations. Please direct any questions to Mauri Walsh or Jim Gaffney at Ext. 7416.
- Members of the University community are reminded that the **campus remains closed to visitors and the general public** except by appointment (e.g. admissions visitors), including the use of the Weinberg Memorial Library. Non-University guests are strictly prohibited in all residence halls.
- **Schedule your appointment for technical support**. The Technology Support Center (TSC) is your first point of contact when you need technical support. Staffed by professional consultants and technical student workers, we are trained to assist our Scranton community with technical issues. Guided by the Royals Safe Together principles, the TSC is now offering students, faculty and staff the ability to schedule and manage appointments. Scheduling an appointment will ensure that our staff can practice safe social distancing and proper sanitation procedures. Appointments can be made for virtual, as well as in-person services.
 - **What if I just have a question?** Our staff continues to provide call-in (570-941-4357) and email (techsupport@scranton.edu) support, or you can enter a ticket in Royal IT Support via the My Scranton portal. This new initiative aims to ensure safety for in-person meetings, and allows for better planning for services that require additional time.
 - **Where do I schedule my appointment?** Please visit [Scranton.edu/techsupport](https://scranton.edu/techsupport) and click on Schedule an Appointment.

You should expect your next regular update on Monday, Aug. 24.

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