



August 24, 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. 17 to Aug. 23**), the University reports the following:

Campus Metrics Summary for Aug. 17 to Aug. 23*

- **Five students reported testing positive and are in isolation.** Three students reported symptoms and are in isolation pending test results. University contact tracers identified and notified 17 students who needed to quarantine as per established protocols.
- **No employees reported testing positive.** Three employees reported the need to quarantine due to possible exposure outside the University. Seven employees are in quarantine as instructed by contact tracers. No work areas required deep cleaning or disinfecting as a result of this week's activity.

Reported Positive Student Cases: 5
Students in quarantine or isolation: 31 (includes positive cases)
Students meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 29

Reported Positive Employee Cases: 0
Employees in quarantine or isolation: 10
Employees meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 2

*Note: Information provided reflects activity within a given week. Because the general timeframe for isolation (10 days) and quarantine (14 days) overlaps with weekly reporting, numbers between weeks will differ.

Key Information to Expect and Recent Communications

- Robert W. Davis Jr., Ed.D., vice president for Student Life, **reminded students that the health and safety expectations outlined in the Royals Safe Together Plan apply both on- and off-campus.** He encouraged students to connect with others in safe ways and to visit [RoyalSync](#) to see opportunities hosted by different departments, USPB, clubs, and organizations. Dr. Davis also encouraged students to visit the Student Activities Fair, which is scheduled for Aug. 29 on Fitzpatrick Field (Rain date: Aug. 30).
- The University's Pandemic Safety Officer, Elizabeth M. Garcia, Esq., **reminds faculty and staff** of the necessity to comply with the provisions of the Plan. In the last week, Ms. Garcia fielded and addressed reports from students, staff and ambassadors about faculty and staff members concerning non-compliance in accordance with the **enforcement provisions of the Plan.**

Updates

- **Zoom was partially down across North America and in part of Europe this morning**, with users reporting that they were unable to authenticate to the Zoom website and unable to start and join Zoom Meetings and Webinars. Zoom is keeping its customers informed as it continues to work on a fix at: <https://status.zoom.us/>.

- **Student Government will host a Town Hall on Wednesday, Aug. 26, at 7:30 p.m. for students** to ask questions of University Leadership about the campus re-opening, campus operations, and any other general inquiries. Robert W. Davis Jr., Ed.D., vice president for Student Life; Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D., provost and senior vice president for academic affairs; Elizabeth Garcia, J.D., the University's pandemic safety officer; and Joe Boyd, food services director, will be present to answer any questions. Students must pre-register [here](#) for the event by noon on Aug. 26 to receive the Zoom link.
- **The University began Covid-19 screening tests today, Aug. 24, 2020.** All students who will attend on-campus classes, including on- and off-campus students and commuters, and those living in residence halls 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 for testing each week, meaning that students and employees on campus should **expect to be tested at least three times during the fall semester**. Sampling for the tests will be done by licensed healthcare providers contracted through [Interim Healthcare](#).
- Students and employees must **complete the Wellness Self-Screen Application Daily**. The app can be accessed through the [My.Scranton](#) portal, the Scranton Mobile app, or directly at <https://www.scranton.edu/WellnessScreening>. 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.
- **Beginning Sunday, Sept. 27, Zoom will require that all meetings have a Passcode or a Waiting Room enabled.** This means that you are in control of your meeting security selections. Changes include:
 - For meetings that do not have either a Passcode or Waiting Room enabled by September 27th, Zoom will enable a Waiting Room for you.
 - You can customize the Waiting Room experience so individuals within your account can bypass the Waiting Room and directly join the meeting.

- Zoom has improved our Waiting Room notifications so the meeting host can now receive a visual and auditory notification that an attendee has entered the Waiting Room.
- Detailed information about this change can be seen [here](#).
- **Pennsylvania American Water Company (PAWC) project schedule update.** The PAWC project is expected to complete work in the 400 block of N. Webster by Friday, Aug. 28. Work on the intersection of Ridge Row & N. Webster is expected to be completed by Friday, Sept. 11. Work schedule for crossing the Mulberry Street at N. Webster has not yet been scheduled and is waiting on approval by PennDOT. If any questions arise on the PAWC construction project or the emergency sewer line repair, contact the University's Facilities Operations Office at 570-941-6267.

You should expect your next regular update on Monday, Aug. 31.

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