



September 14, 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 SARS-CoV-2 on Campus**

The University has [instituted a practice to provide regular updates](#) about positive cases of SARS-Co-V2 on campus.

**Screening Tests:** The University is continuing screening 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.** This reduces the spread of the virus when compared to only identifying persons who test positive after getting symptoms. Those who test positive are usually notified 48-hours after testing. Students who test positive will receive a call from Student Health Services, who will provide initial instructions, including the need to isolate. Employees who test positive will be contacted by Human Resources.

### **Campus Metrics Summary for Sept. 7 to Sept. 13\***

- The University conducted 1,124 [screening tests](#) of students and employees with a weekly positivity rating of 4.00%. The positivity rate on testing for the 2,966 tests completed in all three weeks is 3.34%.
- 45 students tested positive through screening tests, 25 reported symptoms and tested positive through Student Health Services, and 17 reported a positive test from an off-campus provider. All students testing positive are in isolation. Five

students are in isolation pending test results. University contact tracers identified and notified students to quarantine as per established protocols.

- No employees tested positive through screening tests. One employee reported they need to quarantine. Four employees are in isolation due to reported symptoms/responses to the wellness app. Two employees remain in isolation from the previous week. No work areas required deep cleaning or disinfecting as a result of this week's activity.

Reported Positive Student Cases: 87

Students in isolation: 109 (includes newly reported positive cases)

Students in quarantine: 329

Students meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 44

Reported Positive Employee Cases: 0

Employees in isolation: 6

Employees in quarantine: 1

Employees meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 5

\*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

- Robert W. Davis Jr., Ed.D, Vice President for Student Life **will write to all students on Wednesday**, and Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D., Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, **will write to faculty. Both will share information about the remote period.**

### Recent Communications

- **University President, Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., announced in a [video message](#) a two-week pause to in-person classes from Sept. 16 to Sept. 30**, and further restrictions to help mitigate the spread SARS-Co-V2 on campus.
- A Health and Safety Update was sent to the campus community on Sept. 11 with **additional details regarding the pause of in-person instruction**. Information included:
  - Consistent with advice from national health experts, students staying on campus and in the Hill Section should remain in Scranton. **Students who decide to return home will be required to provide a negative COVID-19 test result** that was taken within five days of their return to campus. Those students will be required to restrict their activities while awaiting a test

result. **Students who decide to leave campus during the Remote Period must update their contact information using the Remote Contact Information link under the Student Tab in the [my.scranton.edu](https://my.scranton.edu) portal.**

- Effective Sept. 11, students living in University residence halls must remain on campus, except for when absolutely necessary. **Visitation in all student residences is prohibited**, meaning that only students who live in a particular room, quad, or apartment may be present in the residence. **On campus students may not visit other students in the Hill Section.**
- **Students living off campus or at home must remain off campus**, unless they have a scheduled appointment, work study or participate in a University meal plan. Off-campus students must restrict interactions only to those living in their apartment or house.
- **Several campus facilities will be closed during this two-week pause**, including the fitness center and indoor recreation spaces. Outdoors recreation spaces, such as Fitzpatrick Field, the Volleyball Court and Tennis Courts, will remain open, and students are encouraged to spend time outdoors.
- **University offices will remain open** during the pause.
- **Screening tests will continue during the next two weeks.** Student testing will shift from random to a more targeted approach to assist better in our response. Students and employees will be notified to schedule their testing appointment by email.
- **The entire message can be seen [here](#).**
- Father Pilarz provided a [video](#) update to members of the University's Class of 2020 that informed them that **the University had to cancel plans for the October Commencement exercises due to health and safety restrictions** related to the ongoing pandemic.

## Updates

- **Reminder for Students Getting Off-Campus Testing On Their Own:** We understand that a number of students have been tested off-campus. Test results from private tests are not automatically shared with the University. If you receive a positive test result from an off-campus source, please notify Student Health Services as soon as possible. Doing so will trigger the University's contact tracing process.
- **The [Technology Support Center](#) will pivot to a hybrid model of support to accommodate our student staff observing limited contact and remaining in residence and off campus.** Beginning Wednesday, Sept. 16, the TSC will be open and staffed on campus from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The

TSC will operate remotely from 4:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

- Student Government is hosting a **Q&A with Robert W. Davis Jr., Ed.D, Vice President for Student Life, on Thursday, Sept. 17, at 8 p.m. to answer any questions student have about COVID-19 and campus operations. Students must pre-register for the event [here](#)** and can submit questions ahead of time or ask them live at the event.

**You should expect your next regular update on Monday, Sept. 21.**

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