



September 28, 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.

Campus Metrics Summary for Sept. 21 to Sept. 27*

- The University conducted 787 [screening tests](#) of students and employees with a weekly positivity rating of 9.53%. NOTE: During the two-week pause of in-person instruction, the University targeted testing to populations that were expected to have higher concentrations of the virus. The higher percentage of positive cases is an expected outcome of our targeted testing strategy. The cumulative positivity rate on testing for the 4,731 tests completed in all five weeks is 4.46%.
- 69 students tested positive through screening tests, seven reported symptoms and tested positive through Student Health Services, and three reported a positive test from an off-campus provider. All students testing positive are in isolation or completed the necessary isolation. Three students are in isolation

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

- Six employees tested positive through screening tests. Seven employees were notified to quarantine based on University contact tracing. One employee reported the need to quarantine due to possible exposure outside of the University. One employee is in isolation due to reported symptoms/response to the wellness app. One employee remains in isolation from the previous week. Three work areas were deep cleaned or disinfected as a result of this week's activity.

Reported Positive Student Cases: 79

Students in isolation: 88 (includes newly reported positive cases)

Students in quarantine: 136

Students meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 166

Reported Positive Employee Cases: 6

Employees in isolation: 8

Employees in quarantine: 8

Employees meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 4

*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

- University President, Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., [announced in an email](#) earlier today that the University **would resume in-person instruction (or mode of teaching established at the beginning of the semester) on Wednesday, Sept. 30**, as planned. Additional information and details are as follows:
 - **Mass will again be held in person** at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday evening in the Byron Recreation Complex and on Tuesday and Thursday at noon in Madonna della Strada Chapel.
 - All **campus facilities will return to the availability that was in place prior to the pause**, including the Weinberg Memorial Library, residence halls, the fitness center and indoor recreation space. Outdoors recreation spaces, such as Fitzpatrick Field, the Volleyball Court and Tennis Courts, will also remain available for student use.
 - **University offices remain open.** Supervisors may readjust staffing as they deem appropriate.

- Fr. Pilarz will write to the University community this week with information about the actions of the Board of Trustees related to the **University's strategic plan**.
- Kathleen Sprows Cummings, Ph.D. '93, G'93, Chair of the Presidential Search Committee, will provide an **update on the search process** to the University community later this week.

Updates

- **All students, faculty and staff are reminded to complete the wellness self-screening application daily**, including on weekends. The wellness app, which is available both through the My.Scranton portal and the University's mobile application for iOS and Android mobile devices, 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 (Student Health Services) or employees (Human Resources) and provide additional instructions by email.
- **Students who returned home during the pause are required to be tested for COVID-19 within five days prior to their return to campus.** Negative test results must be uploaded to the student health record using instructions found on the [Student Health Services website](#) prior to returning to campus.
- Students who left their on-campus or off-campus residence and returned home during the Remote Period are also reminded to **update their contact information** using the Remote Contact Information link. The link is also available under the Student Tab in the my.scranton.edu portal.
- Beginning Tuesday, Sept. 29, **the University's Student Health Services will offer extended hours.** The hours of service will be:
 - Monday through Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 - Saturday, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Student Government will hold a **Q&A with Robert W. Davis Jr., Ed.D, Vice President for Student Life, and Lauren Rivera, J.D., M.Ed., Dean of Students**, on Tuesday, Sept. 29, at 7:30 p.m. to answer questions about COVID-19 and campus operations as the two-week pause concludes. Students must pre-register [here](#) and can submit questions ahead of time or ask them live at the event.

You should expect your next regular update on Monday, Oct. 5.

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