

The University of Scranton: University Community Royals Safe Together – Monday Update

Health and Safety <healthandsafety@scranton.edu>

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To: universitycommunity@scranton.edu <universitycommunity@scranton.edu>



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 Aug. 31 to Sept. 6*

- The University conducted 933 screening tests of students and employees, receiving 921 results thus far with a weekly positivity rating of 3.37%. The positivity rate on screening testing for the 1,842 tests completed in both week one and two is 2.93%.
- 30 students tested positive through screening tests, 19 reported symptoms and tested positive through Student Health Services, and 15 reported a positive test from an off-campus provider. All students testing positive are in isolation. Eleven students are in isolation pending test results. University contact tracers identified and notified students to quarantine as per established protocols.
- One employee tested positive through screening tests. One employee reported they need to quarantine due to possible exposure outside the University. Five employees are in isolation due to reported symptoms/responses to the wellness app. No employees remain in quarantine from the previous week. One work area required deep cleaning or disinfecting as a result of this week's activity.

Reported Positive Student Cases: 64

Students in isolation: 79 (includes newly reported positive cases)

Students in quarantine: 260

Students meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 78

Reported Positive Employee Cases: 1

Employees in isolation: 6 (includes new reported positive case)

Employees in quarantine: 1

Employees meeting criteria to discontinue quarantine or isolation: 8

*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

- **Video Message from the President:** Scott. R. Pilarz, S.J., President, will offer a video update this week on **campus active cases, the University's pandemic response and contingency planning.**

Important Reminders for Students and Parents:

- **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, then please notify Student Health Services as soon as possible. Doing so will trigger the University's contact tracing process.

Updates

- Student Life sent all undergraduates students a **Royal Happenings Newsletter, which highlight opportunities for students to connect with others.** [The Sept. 3 edition of Royal Happenings](#) provided information and resources about coping with uncertainty during the pandemic, virtual wellness classes, the fall semester Mass schedule, a virtual Student Activities Fair on Sept. 12, and other activities.
- Robert W. Davis Jr., Ed.D., Vice President for Student Life, emailed **students with meal plans who are in isolation or quarantine in off-campus residences** with information regarding how they can access daily food service.
- Dr. Davis sent [information to parents](#) about the screening test process and notification of the need to isolate or quarantine. He also informed them that the University has initiated **a call center to help answer questions parents may have if their son or daughter is required to isolate or quarantine.** The call center can be reached at 570-941-4622 weekdays between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.
- **Zoom Room Changes:** Lynett Hall is being converted back to use as a residence hall in order to accommodate students in need of quarantine or isolation and will be temporarily unavailable for zoom usage. **Designated offices and work areas are available in Brown Hall** beginning on Thursday, Sept. 10, for use by students for study or zoom classes. Students reserve these spaces by contacting the Office of Off Campus and Commuter Student Life.
- **Contact Tracing Scam Alert:** Although we are not aware of anyone in our community being targeted, the Federal Communications Commission has [issued an alert regarding contact tracing scams nationally.](#) Remember that University or Pennsylvania Department of Health contract tracers will never ask for personal information such as social security or credit card numbers, or insurance or bank account information.
- **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.](#)

You should expect your next regular update on Monday, Sept. 14.

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