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Coronavirus Update 10-30-20

The Coronavirus Planning Team

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October 30: Coronavirus Update

Dear members of the Sacred Heart University community,

The COVID news around the state is in flux. Yesterday, Governor Lamont shared that the state's positivity rate is 6.1—the highest it has been since June. Today, it has improved some. That said, there are 30 “red alert” communities around the state and, while Fairfield has improved to orange, Bridgeport is now red and has reverted to Phase 2 reopening protocols, as has Stamford and a number of cities throughout the state.

That news leads us to Halloween. You will see below that our numbers are trending a little differently than the state's, and we want to keep it that way. The only way to do that is to stick to the Pioneer Promise as we have done all semester. We want you to celebrate and have fun, but please do it safely. Wear a mask (and not just a Halloween mask), stay far apart from those who are not in your family pod and wash and/or sanitize your hands frequently. These are proven actions to deter the virus. Check out the SHU Instagram story on this subject featuring your fellow students. We all want to be here until Thanksgiving as planned, and we don't want you to have to spend your final weeks in quarantine. **Please use good judgment this weekend.**

Travel Advisory Update

Currently almost every state in the country is [high risk](#) when using Connecticut's definition of a positive case rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents or higher than a 10% positivity rate over a seven-day rolling average. Because of that, Connecticut this week added Massachusetts to its list of high-risk states. That means anyone coming from Massachusetts will need to quarantine for 14 days from the time of last contact in the state. The state has made an exception for New York, New Jersey and Rhode Island, but **we continue to highly recommend that everyone remain on campus between now and Thanksgiving.**

Active Cases

Since we reported to you on Tuesday, we have had 19 new cases—nine on campus (one each in Frassati, Oakwood, Toussaint, Pioneer Gardens and Merton and four in Bergoglio) and 10 off campus. As always, contact tracing is taking place. We have also had 24 students recover and leave isolation since Friday's message.

Today's [dashboard](#) shows us at 58 active cases down 18 from the 76 we reported on Tuesday and with a seven-day rolling average of 5.9 up from 5.4 on Tuesday.

Weekly Testing

As we have ramped up our random asymptomatic testing, everyone is being tested more often. It is likely that you may be selected two weeks in a row or two out of the next three weeks. With the spread that is happening in the state, this testing is critical, so we appreciate your cooperation.

Thanksgiving Testing

We have heard from some of you that you would like to be tested before heading home for Thanksgiving—many because of high-risk family members at home. Dean of Students Larry Wielk will be sending out information soon about how you can sign up for a pre-Thanksgiving test.

On-Campus Plasma Donation Drive

A COVID-19 plasma drive is scheduled for Sunday, November 15, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Pitt Center. To participate, you will need documentation of a lab-confirmed positive COVID-19 test and will have to be symptom-free for at least 14 days. Visit the [website](#) of the Rhode Island Blood Center to fill out the necessary paperwork. The drive has been organized by SHU athletics.

Daylight-Saving Time

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed tomorrow night as Daylight-Saving Time ends this weekend.

Let's Have Fun—Safely

There are plenty of fun activities to participate in on campus all weekend, including the Theatre Arts Program's performances of *Sondheim on Sondheim*. Check the [Edgerton Center website](#) for details. Tonight, there is a dodgeball tournament at the recreation center, virtual Halloween trivia from 7-9, a psychic fair from 7-11 at the University Commons auditorium and Halloween bowling. Tomorrow, you can choose from a pickleball tournament and spikeball tournament, hot cider and doughnuts from 2-5 p.m. across from Seton and Merton and more Halloween bowling. Sunday brings the choir's [Stand Together concert](#) that will be performed virtually, Football Sunday in

Hawley Lounge at 4 p.m. and Holy Yoga at 8:15 p.m. in the Chapel narthex following the 7 p.m. Mass.

Have a safe and healthy Halloween weekend,

The Coronavirus Planning Team