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11-5-2020

Coronavirus Update 11-5-2020

The Coronavirus Planning Team
Sacred Heart University

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coronavirusplanningcontactus@sacredheart.edu

Coronavirus Update 11-5-20

Dear members of the Sacred Heart University community,

Since we communicated with you on Tuesday, we have had a total of 35 new COVID-19 cases—29 of which are on campus. This is, unfortunately, in line with spikes in cases both regionally and nationally and at other area universities. Part of the reason is that people everywhere are letting their guard down. They are tired of the restrictions. They want to see friends and family and want some normalcy. An example is a recent Halloween party that closed down a New Haven-area restaurant because of a lack of masks and social distancing and crowds over the allowed limit. That party also resulted in at least 20 students from another university in the area being sent home for the remainder of the semester and a significant spike in cases at that university. (We have no indication that our students were at that particular party).

There has also been an impact at Sacred Heart. As a result of the spike in on-campus cases, we are raising our alert status to orange. Because we have 14 cases in Seton Hall and 10 cases in Bergoglio, **we are putting those two halls on a 14-day quarantine effective at 8 p.m. tonight.** This means students in those halls will revert to online learning and will not leave their rooms except for bathroom breaks and to pick up food. **We will send a follow-up message with new information about dining hall schedules for all students.**

Today is three weeks until Thanksgiving, and we understand that some of you may want to quarantine at home. This is fine, but we ask that you remain at home for the remainder of the semester. If you choose to leave, you need to notify your professors and fill out your Thanksgiving break checkout form for residential life. For those heading home, we will offer exit COVID-19 testing. Details will follow.

With the move to orange, we are reminding students to stick with the people who are in your family pod. We are asking you not to have guests in your rooms—even the previously allowed friends from within your residence hall. Do not leave campus unless it is absolutely necessary. As always, wear a mask, stay socially distanced and wash and sanitize hands frequently.

We know these measures may seem harsh, but they are necessary, and we appreciate your cooperation. As always, we have been working closely with state and local health officials as the virus continues to spread to discern the very best strategies for the University. The health and safety of the University is always our top priority, and we will keep you updated as things evolve.

Be safe and healthy,
The Coronavirus Planning Team

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