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Coronavirus Update 11-6-2020

The Coronavirus Planning Team
Sacred Heart University

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coronavirusplanningcontactus@sacredheart.edu

Coronavirus Update 11-6-20

Dear members of the Sacred Heart University community,

Since we communicated with you yesterday, we have a total of 34 new positive COVID-19 cases—25 on campus and nine off campus. We are also still receiving results from this week's random asymptomatic testing. Because of this continued spike, **we are moving our alert status to red**. This decision was made after careful deliberations and discussion with state and local health officials about how best to contain the virus.

In addition, Connecticut's Department of Public Health has issued a public health advisory for all Connecticut residents (except essential workers) to stay home between the hours of 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. to reduce the risk of further transmission. For the purposes of this curfew, campus is considered home for residential students, which means you don't necessarily need to be in your rooms by 10. Sacred Heart will enforce this curfew, which means residential students need to be on campus by 9:30 and nonresidential students should be in their homes by 10 p.m.

Our move to red alert has the following immediate implications:

- The majority of classes will move completely online beginning Monday for the rest of the semester (see exceptions below). Look for communications from your individual instructors on how this will be done.
- The majority of campus events will be suspended or cancelled for two weeks or longer (practices, rehearsals, performances, gatherings, etc.)
- Residential students should not attend any off-campus gatherings
- Dining hall hours will be adjusted, and all meals will be grab-and-go from Linda's, 63's and the Market
- There will be restricted building access

Please note that Seton and Bergoglio Halls remain under quarantine.

We recognize that some students need to meet the required hours for course progression and graduation, which means lab experiences and clinical and public school placements may need to continue on ground. **The final determination will be made by the deans in consultation with program directors, and you should expect to hear from your dean or program director soon.** Should you choose to leave your placement or decide not to attend onsite labs, the decision may impact your graduation or progression. We will continue to monitor agency regulations and will adjust as needed.

Students in graduate programs should also wait to hear from their dean or program director.

With Thanksgiving so close, we understand that some of you may elect to go home immediately for the remainder of the semester. If so, you will need to fill out your Thanksgiving break checkout form for

residential life. For those heading home, we will offer exit COVID-19 testing. Details will follow as soon as they are available.

We are disappointed to go to remote learning so close to the finish line, but the health and safety of our community takes priority, and the spiking numbers necessitate this move. We are seeing here the same thing that is happening across the country—large gatherings and meetings without masks and social distancing are leading to community spread. We will continue to communicate with you as more decisions are made.

Thank you,
The Coronavirus Planning Team

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