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Coronavirus Update 10-23-20

The Coronavirus Planning Team
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coronavirusplanningcontactus@sacredheart.edu

Coronavirus Update 10-23-20

Dear members of the Sacred Heart University community,

We have some updates to share from the town of Fairfield, the state and the CDC.

Town of Fairfield

Yesterday afternoon, the state moved the town of Fairfield's alert level to red. This means the town has a two-week average daily case rate higher than 15 per 100,000. The town attributed the increase in cases largely to an outbreak at Fairfield University, but Sacred Heart's cases are contributing, too. Town officials are reminding everyone of the importance of **wearing masks, social distancing and washing hands frequently**. The town is also encouraging the cancellation of any large gatherings and has already canceled all town-sponsored public events. The primary means of transmission seems to be from small gatherings where people are letting their guard down by taking off their masks and coming too close to one another.

In view of the rise in cases throughout the state and, especially, in Fairfield, we are asking you to limit off-campus travel to necessary reasons.

State Travel Guidelines for CT, NY and NJ

The number of COVID-19 cases has been rising in both Connecticut and New York. There have been some days recently when Connecticut has reached its own definition of a high-risk state. Connecticut, New York and New Jersey will not restrict travel among the three states—mostly because of the burden it would put on commuters. However, officials are strongly recommending that you do not travel to and from these states unless it is necessary.

Active Cases

Since we reported to you on Tuesday, we have had 20 new cases—12 on campus (one each in Merton, Wiesel and Pioneer Gardens, five in Christian Witness Commons and four in Roncalli) and eight off campus. As always, contact tracing is taking place. We have also had five students recover and leave isolation since Friday's message.

Today's [dashboard](#) shows us at 75 active cases up from the 60 we reported on Tuesday and with a seven-day rolling average of 5.6 up from 4.5 on Tuesday.

CDC Updates Definition of Close Contact

The CDC has updated its definition of close contact to be 15 minutes of cumulative contact with an individual within six feet throughout the day. This means we need to start keeping track of incidental contact. Our contact tracing has always been rigorous and landed on the side of extreme caution, but we want you to be aware of this new guideline as you keep track of your contacts.

Weekend Fun

While we are asking you to stay on campus as much as possible, the good news is that there will be plenty to do. Tonight, there is a dodgeball tournament from 5-8, virtual trivia from 7-9, Theatrefest in

the Edgerton at 8 p.m. and disco bowling from 8-11. Tomorrow, we have a pickleball tournament from 10-1, fire pit & chill on 63's patio from 7-10 and more disco bowling from 8-11. On Sunday, there's a speed climbing contest from 1-4, a corn maze on 63's patio lawn from 2-6 and Football Sunday beginning at 4 in Hawley Lounge. You can also rent yard games from the concierge anytime. Options include cornhole, kanjam, spike ball, big jenga and more.

Have a safe and healthy weekend,
The Coronavirus Planning Team

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