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Coronavirus Update 8-7-2020

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Fri 8/7/2020 5:15 PM

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Coronavirus Update 8/7/20

Dear members of the Sacred Heart University community,

We have updates for you, including the latest guidance from the State of CT regarding visitors from high-risk states, an important change to the University calendar and updates on required testing for students.

Classes on Labor Day

As an additional safety measure, we have decided to hold undergraduate classes on Labor Day (Monday, September 7). Graduate programs have the option to hold classes on Labor Day; some health professions programs have already decided to use Labor Day as a clinical day. Faculty who hold classes on Labor Day may hold one fewer Monday class at the end of the semester.

Travelers from High-Risk States—A Change to Guidance for Students and Parents

The state continues to require all students traveling to Connecticut from a high-risk state to be prepared to quarantine for 14 days whether they live on or off campus. Upon arrival in Connecticut or shortly before or after, students from high-risk states are now required to fill out an online travel form to indicate they will self-quarantine for 14 days upon arrival in the state. Parents accompanying students from impacted states are considered “unable to quarantine.” For parents from high-risk states who plan to remain here more than 24 hours, the state is asking for a test taken 72 hours prior to arrival in CT and completion of the online travel form. Activities while here should be minimized to those critical to transitioning the student to his or her new environment.

Just a reminder that students who need to quarantine on campus should fill out the early arrival request form. You will be asked to include the date of your arrival to campus (no earlier than Aug. 17). Also, to take advantage of early arrival, your accounts will need to be current with the business office and your health form will need to be up to date and compliant with health services.

What Quarantine Will Look Like

For students who arrive early from high-risk state to self-quarantine, the expectation is that you will isolate in your room for a 14-day period, leaving only to use the restroom or to pick up meals to bring back to your room to eat. Chartwells will provide grab-and-go meals from August 17-24 for students who are quarantining. During this time, meal plans will not be active, so you should plan to pay in cash or put additional money on your SHU ID card.

Once students from an at-risk state receive a negative test result, they will be under “cautious” quarantine, which means they can walk around campus. However, they still should refrain from interacting with others and limit time spent in University facilities.

You may live with roommates while under quarantine, but until you all finish the quarantine or have negative test results, we suggest you wear masks and employ social distancing.

Testing Requirements for Students

All students—both undergraduate and graduate, full and part time, need to file proof of a negative PCR test taken **within 14 days prior to the first day you will be on campus.**

Quest Diagnostics® Partnership for Testing for Students

All students should have received information yesterday about the University's agreement with Quest Diagnostics to provide the option of testing kits at a cost of \$125. Quest will no longer require an online telehealth visit with a medical provider to observe the swabbing technique; instead they will provide a specimen collection kit that includes detailed instructions and a link to an online video describing how to self-swab. They have also assured us timely delivery of kits and test results to meet your return-to-campus start date.

If you choose to participate in this program, you must REGISTER HERE. You will be prompted to create an account using a registration key – please enter the code **SacredHeart**. You will also need to enter your SHU ID number during registration. If you do not know your SHU ID number, please log in to your Student Planning and Advising (SPA) account. If you are under the age of 18, you will need to register with a parent or guardian and ensure that we have a [minor consent form](#) on file at Student Health Services. Please upload the consent form to your [Student Health Portal](#) by clicking on the “Upload Documents” tab. You must complete this test on a **weekday only starting on August 10**, and you must ship your test back the same day you take it, so please plan ahead.

All students, regardless of where you obtain your COVID-19 PCR test, are responsible for submitting test results to Sacred Heart University Student Health Services before returning to campus. You should upload a copy of your lab report to your [Student Health Portal](#) by clicking on the “Upload Documents” tab. We can accept a screen shot, a photo taken from your phone or a scanned copy of the lab report – just as long as we can see the entire lab report. Please do not fax or mail your results to us. As a reminder, when in your portal, please check the “Immunizations on File” tab to make sure that your status is listed as compliant with the required immunizations.

What to Do if You Don't Have a Negative Result When Classes Start

With the exception of those from high-risk states who are arriving early to quarantine, no students will be allowed on campus without filing a negative test taken within 14 days of arrival. Students who do not have a negative test result will need to take classes online off campus until the University receives the required documentation. We recommend that you make every attempt to submit your test results before your arrival and the start of the semester.

Distribution of PPE

As we mentioned in an earlier communication, all students, faculty and staff will receive a SHU-branded mask and a refillable bottle of hand sanitizer. Distribution to faculty and staff has already begun. Once classes start, there will be distribution stations set up throughout campus to provide these items to students.

Virtual Town Hall Meeting for Full-time Undergraduate Students and Parents

The Coronavirus Planning Team has scheduled another virtual town hall meeting for full-time undergraduate students and parents. It will be [Thursday, August 13, at 5:30 p.m.](#) Submit questions in advance [here](#). This session will also include information for student-athletes.

As always, we hope this information has been helpful. We look forward to answering your questions at the meetings next week.

Have a good weekend,
The Coronavirus Planning Team

This message was sent to the following groups: !Urgent-Parents-UGStudents,!Campuswide-Students,!Campuswide-Employees