Coronavirus Update 2-9-21

The Coronavirus Planning Team
Dear members of the Sacred Heart University community,

Student Activities has lined up a number of fun and informational activities for you this week:

- Tonight, you can pick up grab-and-go stuff-a-bear kits in HC Lounge, beginning at 8
- Tomorrow brings hot chocolate and ice scrapers for commuters from 9-noon in Hawley Lounge; hot chocolate and mugs from 10 to noon in HC Lounge; grab-and-go charcuterie boards from 1-5 in HC Lounge; a sorority recruitment info session at 2 p.m.; information about academic clubs at 7 and a virtual TV trivia game show
- Thursday brings more hot chocolate bombs and mugs, DIY heart wreaths from 6-9 in HC Lounge; information about social clubs at 7 and a men’s basketball game against Bryant

*Check your email for more information and Zoom links for these events.*

**Happiness**
This week’s [happiness talk](mailto:happiness@shu.edu) is about how to be happy again.

**Updated Frequently Asked Questions**
We recently updated our coronavirus [Frequently Asked Questions section](mailto:faqs@shu.edu) to try to make things clearer for all our student populations. If you have suggestions for questions and answers that should be added, please send them to [coronavirusplanningcontactus@sacredheart.edu](mailto:coronavirusplanningcontactus@sacredheart.edu).

**Campus Clear**
We want to thank the 2,500 members of our community who have signed up for [CampusClear](mailto:campusclear@shu.edu) and encourage the rest of you to do the same. We will be making some additional enhancements to this program in the near future. Stay tuned!

**Contact Tracing Update**
A robust contact tracing program is critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19. Anyone who tests positive needs to isolate to prevent passing the virus to others. It is also important to identify anyone with whom the infected person has been in contact and alert them so they can quarantine and monitor their health for symptoms. Close contacts are defined as anyone who has been within six feet for 15 minutes or longer. There also may be exceptional circumstances that don’t exactly fit this criterion that still require quarantining.

Sacred Heart has hired a team of registered nurses to conduct contact tracing interviews. They work seven days a week in conjunction with health services and public safety to quickly reach out to students who have tested positive. The team will also place follow-up phone calls to students after they have been placed in isolation or quarantine to monitor symptoms, answer questions and help coordinate further testing or refer for medical attention if needed. They will report directly to our SHU staff.
Any student who tests positive will first be contacted by health services and informed of the test result. The nurses will then call the student to begin the contact tracing interview process. The nurses will be calling from a Denver area code of 720 or a California area code of 949. **Please answer when you receive those calls.** They will clearly identify themselves as part of the Sacred Heart contact tracing team and will have a Sacred Heart email address.

**Importance of Avoiding Gatherings**
The National Guard put out a video before the holidays about the ramifications of attending gatherings outside your pod. With the new variants out there, this information resonates now more than ever. [Check it out!](https://www.sacredheartpioneers.com)

**Vaccines for Those 65 and Older**
Governor Lamont announced yesterday that residents 65 and older will be able to start registering for a vaccine on Thursday. With approximately 350,000 individuals in Connecticut between the ages of 65 and 74, state public health officials are asking for patience. Sacred Heart will be providing the state with a list of faculty and staff who fall into this new age category.

**Spring Sports**
We are excited to share that our DI athletic teams will be having competitive seasons during the spring semester as long as it remains safe to do so. Many of the games will be available for viewing. Follow your Pioneers at [www.sacredheartpioneers.com](http://www.sacredheartpioneers.com).

**Active Cases**
Today’s [dashboard](https://www.sacredheartpioneers.com) shows 58 active cases. There are 38 students with current active cases isolating on campus.

Be safe,
The Coronavirus Planning Team

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