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Coronavirus Update 8/21/20

The Coronavirus Planning Team

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Dear members of the Sacred Heart University community,

We have had a beautiful week of weather on campus. Here’s hoping there are many more weeks like this in our future, so we can spend lots of time outside.

**Opening-of-School Activities**
This week, we welcomed students from the at-risk states who needed to quarantine on campus. We are looking forward to having the rest of you arrive next week for move-in and the following week for classes. As we told you last week, we have a lot of fun activities planned to keep us busy on campus.

**Welcome Week** helps new students connect to faculty, staff and other students even before classes begin. It includes both social and academic activities, such as learning the Alma Mater and getting information about clubs, fraternities and sororities or late-night bowling, painting and watching TV on the football field.

There is also something for everyone in the [First 50 days schedule](#). It is packed with social, informative and academic events and activities every day! These events provide you with the opportunity to make new friends and get to know faculty and staff. We will continue to update the schedule as more events are added. Mark your calendar for the ones that interest you.

**Learning What NOT to Do**
This week, colleges and universities around the country opened up and, unfortunately, some just as quickly sent students back home for online learning. Examples include the University of North Carolina, Michigan State and Notre Dame (which is going online for two weeks and then assessing the situation). UConn is having a spike, including among several members of the football team. What got these institutions in trouble, early, were parties and large group gatherings with no masks and no social distancing.

We understand the desire to celebrate being on campus. In fact, we want to celebrate with you, but our responsibility to you is that we provide a safe living and learning environment. That means asking that you hold off on parties for now and that you adhere to the Pioneer Promise. As you and your parents know, the entire country is watching what is happening at colleges and universities. Most expect us to fail and, so far, some are. Let’s show them how Pioneers get it done. Let’s do it not just in our own self-interest, but in the interest of others here on campus, our families and residents in the surrounding communities. And, hopefully, it won’t be long before we are having parties and celebrations, football games and concerts, homecoming and commencement exercises. Earlier this week, some students put together a [video](#) to reinforce this message. Let’s all take it to heart.

**More on Masks**
Since we don’t think we can say it enough, we are reminding everyone again that masks must be worn at all times unless you are in your residence hall space or private office. The exceptions will be our mask-free seating areas around campus where you see the red Adirondack-style chairs. Those areas are places where you can take a break from wearing your mask either alone or with your friends. We have placed
the chairs at a safe distance for mask-free socializing, so please do not move them, and please do not hang out there unless you are sitting in a chair.

Another exception to mask-wearing is the single-unit study pods for commuters and others who need a space for an online class or to study (more about that in just a minute). Please be sure to wipe down the area before using.

A final exception will be dining areas, both inside and out. Please remember to maintain social distancing unless you are with members of your “SHU family” (roommates or suitemates).

**Faculty:** Just a reminder that you will need to wear a mask while teaching in the classroom. Please note that a face shield is not an allowed alternative to a facemask. There are microphones at the podium in all classrooms, but if you think you need more to project your voice, you can get an additional mic from your dean.

**Testing/Contact Information**
We also want to remind students that you need to submit negative results from a COVID PCR test taken within 14 days of your arrival on campus. For residents, that is your move-in date; for commuters, it is your first day of classes.

All members of the SHU community who will be on campus need to make sure we have your current cell phone number and the name, address and phone number of your emergency contact. This is necessary in case we need to execute contact tracing. Students can update this information in SPA. From the left navigation, select “User Options.” To update or add your cell phone number and a local address, select “User Profile.” To update or add an emergency contact, select “Emergency Information.” Make sure to click the “Confirm” button at the top of the window when done.

**Study Areas for Commuters**
We have identified areas for commuters who need a place to study in between classes and for residents who may have online classes at the same time as roommates. This map identifies those areas.

**Daily Health Symptom Survey**
As part of our efforts focusing on COVID prevention, we expect to start our program for a daily self-reporting survey to keep each of us aware of our daily health and potential symptoms of the virus. Once submitted, general health information and guidance will be provided based on your answers.

We expect all students, faculty and staff who are on campus to complete the survey daily to monitor our own health and contribute to our efforts to monitor COVID trends and symptoms campus-wide on a daily basis. You will need to go to your health portal under *My SHU* to do your daily report. While the information you provide is protected, we will require full compliance. The program allows for a daily email and/or text message reminder. To receive text messages, you can sign up in your health portal by providing your cell number and cellular provider.

**We’re Here to Answer Your Questions**
Over the past five months or so, we have answered thousands of questions that have come into our mailbox. We do our best to keep you informed, but we know we don’t cover all your questions and concerns. Many times, the questions we have received have guided the information we have included in subsequent messages to you.
We expect you may have more questions as we ramp up for the beginning of classes, and we want to remind you that we welcome them and will answer them as quickly as we can. You can submit questions by responding to this email message or by emailing us at CoronavirusContactUs@sacredheart.edu.

Have a great weekend! See you next week!

The Coronavirus Planning Team

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