



Sacred Heart  
UNIVERSITY

Sacred Heart University  
DigitalCommons@SHU

---

University Briefings & Virtual Events

Remembering COVID-19 Community Archive

---

12-15-2020

## Coronavirus Update 12-15-20

The Coronavirus Planning Team

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/covid19-universitybriefings>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [Virus Diseases Commons](#)

---

The Coronavirus Planning Team, "Coronavirus Update 12-15-20" (2020). *University Briefings & Virtual Events*. 61.

<https://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/covid19-universitybriefings/61>

This Email is brought to you for free and open access by the Remembering COVID-19 Community Archive at DigitalCommons@SHU. It has been accepted for inclusion in University Briefings & Virtual Events by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@SHU. For more information, please contact [ferribyp@sacredheart.edu](mailto:ferribyp@sacredheart.edu), [lysobeyb@sacredheart.edu](mailto:lysobeyb@sacredheart.edu).

Dear members of the Sacred Heart University community,

We want to share our plan for our return for the spring semester. This plan builds on our successes from the fall semester and incorporates lessons learned. While this email is filled with a lot of housekeeping-type information that we need to communicate to you, we want you to know that we are really excited about the spring semester. We are optimistic that this plan and a continued commitment to the [Pioneer Promise](#), along with the good news of a vaccine coming, will lead to a successful on-ground semester.

***It is important to note that the information below could change depending on the status of the pandemic and/or guidance from federal and state agencies. You may also receive additional, more specific, guidance from your college deans or program directors.***

### **Full- and Part-Time Undergraduate Students**

For spring, we are planning a phased-in move-in process that will heavily emphasize mandatory testing. Beginning the week of January 25, **residential students** will move into the halls in phases as was done in the fall. Before or upon arrival, you must provide the University with results of a negative PCR test taken within five business days of arrival. Residential life will be sending out your move-in dates later this week.

Upon arrival to campus and prior to entering your residence hall, you must immediately go to the testing center in the University Commons auditorium. Once you have been tested and have moved into your rooms, you will remain in a cautionary campus quarantine through Feb. 8. For these purposes, we are defining cautionary quarantine as limiting travel on campus, restricting all off-campus travel and taking classes online for the first five days of the semester. You do not have to stay in your rooms. Grab-and-go meals will be available from the dining halls.

On-ground classes will begin the week of Feb. 8 **with exceptions that will be communicated by some program directors regarding certain labs, clinicals and/or studio classes**. Testing will continue throughout the semester. You will receive a link to register for your initial test shortly after January 1. A link for mandatory testing will be sent each week during the semester beginning the week of February 1. Anytime you receive this link, the test is mandatory.

**All nonresident students** must also submit results of a negative PCR test taken within five business days of the start of classes on Feb. 1. Nonresident students will remain in a cautionary quarantine at home off campus until the first day of on-ground classes on Feb. 8, **with exceptions that will be communicated by some program directors regarding certain labs, clinicals and/or studio classes**. Beginning the week of Feb. 8, random weekly mandatory testing for all nonresident students will begin. A link to register for testing will be sent each week. If you are selected, the test is mandatory.

### **Graduate Students**

Graduate students should follow the guidance of their program directors regarding the start of classes. **Any graduate students who will be on campus will need to provide the University with results of a negative PCR test taken within five business days of their first day on campus**. Graduate students will be included in our testing program throughout the semester. Whenever you receive an email with a link to schedule a random test, the test is mandatory.

### **College of Nursing Students**

College of Nursing courses will begin classes on Tuesday, January 19. Classes will be fully online for the week of January 19 with on-ground classes starting on January 25. Before or upon arrival to campus, you must provide the University with results of a negative PCR test taken within the previous five business days. Residential students in the College of Nursing may plan to move in on January 18. Upon arrival to campus and prior to entering your residence hall, you must immediately go to the testing center in the Edgerton Center. Once you have been tested and have moved into your rooms, you will remain in a cautionary campus quarantine until January 25. During this time, grab-and-go meals will be available from the dining halls. Testing will continue throughout the semester. Whenever you receive an email with a link to schedule a random test, the test is mandatory.

### **St. Vincent's College Students**

SVC students will begin classes February 1. Specific information about your arrival protocol and testing dates will be communicated by your dean.

### **College of Health Professions Graduate Students**

College of Health Professions graduate students will begin classes either January 11 or January 19. Specific information about your arrival protocol and testing dates will be communicated by your dean.

### **Testing Requirements for Students Who Previously Tested Positive**

**Please note:** If you tested positive for COVID-19 within 90 days of your return to campus, you are exempt from providing test results; however, documentation must be on file with health services.

### **Summary**

In summary, all students must submit a negative PCR test taken within five days of the first day they plan to be on campus. Students who will be starting classes other than February 1 for online classes and February 8 for on-ground classes because of certain labs, clinicals or studio classes, or off-cycle graduate program schedules, will receive information on arrival dates, class schedules and testing from program directors or deans.

### **Spring '21 Calendar Reminders**

As previously mentioned, undergraduate classes will begin online on Feb. 1 and move to on-ground beginning Feb. 8 **with the exception of the College of Nursing**. There will be no spring break. There will be no classes on April 2 and 5 as we celebrate Good Friday and Easter. Undergraduate classes will end on May 10, and final exams will run from May 11-18. Commencement is tentatively planned for May 22 (graduate) and May 23 (undergraduate).

Finals week for College of Nursing students will be April 26-May 4.

### **High-Risk States/International Student Quarantines**

All students coming to campus from states (other than New York, New Jersey and Rhode Island) with high positivity rates as identified by the State of Connecticut, along with international students returning from abroad, are required to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival to either on-campus or off-campus housing. These quarantines are subject to change as the state updates its requirements. You should check [Connecticut's guidelines](#) and plan accordingly.

### **Reminder to Students Who Isolated at Home**

Students who tested positive before leaving campus, but chose to complete their isolation at home, need to contact health services to be cleared once the isolation is over. You will need to be cleared to return to campus.

### **Active Cases**

Today's [dashboard](#) shows the University with 64 active cases. With most students home for winter break, our status is at normal.

Again, we know the bulk of this email sounds like a lot of administrative rules and directions. We need to impart that information to maximize the health and safety of all the members of the University community. Rest assured that we are also working on safe ways to have fun, get to know each other and strengthen existing friendships. Stay tuned for information about that!

Be safe and have a great break,  
The Coronavirus Planning Team

--

[SHU Coronavirus Website](#) | [SHU Covid-19 Dashboard](#) | [If You Become Ill](#) | [Testing, Tracking, Treating & Tracing](#)

You received this message because you are subscribed to the [Sacred Heart University-!Campuswide-Employees] group.

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