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6-18-2021

## Coronavirus Update 6-18-2021

The Coronavirus Planning Team

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**Coronavirus Update 6-18-21**  
**Fri 6/18/2021 1:58 PM**

Coronavirus Planning Contact Us <coronavirusplanningcontactus@sacredheart.edu>

Dear members of the Sacred Heart University community,

Given the current state of the virus, and the widespread availability of the vaccine, state and federal public health officials continue to strongly recommend the vaccine but are not requiring it. As a result, the University will follow suit by strongly encouraging, but not mandating, the vaccine for all on campus in the fall. This plan will not change unless public health regulations change or an acute increase in community spread warrants it.

It is still essential that we have an accurate count of how many members of our community are vaccinated. If you have not uploaded a COVID-19 vaccine certificate to the SPA health portal, you **must** take the [Vaccination Status Communication](#) survey by June 30.

For those who are **not** vaccinated in the fall, it will be required that they be tested weekly, wear masks indoors and isolate and quarantine at home, if necessary. Please note that external entities and organizations (outside of Sacred Heart University) may require vaccinations for those who participate in certain clinical placements, international travel, events or activities. Please note that if clinical placements require vaccinations, nursing students who are not vaccinated may be unable to complete the clinical requirements for graduation within the timeframe of the program plan.

As a reminder, in accordance with CDC and CT state guidance, the University is operating under the following COVID protocols regarding mask wearing:

- Masks are no longer required on campus *outside*, regardless of whether someone is vaccinated or not
- Inside any of our facilities, individuals who are fully vaccinated no longer need to wear a mask; however, individuals who are not vaccinated **must** wear a mask. Of course, we encourage anyone who feels more comfortable wearing a mask inside or outside to please do so

We will be sharing more details on our ongoing COVID mitigation plans and everything the University is doing to keep our community safe for the fall in July.

**Emergency Grants**

Sacred Heart has received \$6.5 million from funds allocated for postsecondary colleges and universities. Of that amount, \$2.1 million is designated for emergency grants to students. The remaining funds are for use by the University to cover expenses related to the coronavirus. The student grants are available to any individual who is or was enrolled on or after March 13, 2020.

The institutions have been directed to prioritize students with exceptional need. The main criteria for an emergency grant will be the demonstration of a genuine, eligible expense and that the capacity for continued study may be in jeopardy due to financial hardship. To confirm that need, Sacred Heart is requiring students to submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. The funds will provide students with financial grants that may be used for any component of your costs of attendance

here or for emergency costs that arose due to coronavirus, such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care) or child care. You can find more information about these emergency grants [on our website](#).

Have a wonderful weekend and be safe out there,  
The Coronavirus Planning Team

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

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