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Coronavirus Update 7-30-21

The Coronavirus Planning Team

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Fri 7/30/2021 1:05 PM

Coronavirus Planning Contact Us coronavirusplanningcontactus@sacredheart.edu

Coronavirus Update 7-30-21

Dear members of the Sacred Heart University community,

Message Highlights

1. Students, faculty and staff will need to have at least one dose of the vaccine before coming back to campus. Students must upload their proof of vaccination (even if it is only a first dose) to their SPA health portal.
2. Everyone needs to have their second injection by September 15 and will need to upload the information by that date.
3. Students may apply for a religious or medical exemption.
4. Unvaccinated students with an approved exemption will need to provide a negative PCR test taken within five days prior to their arrival on campus.
5. As part of our attempt to get back to our normal routines as much as possible, we will not be offering SHU-Flex in the fall.
6. We are watching the new CDC guidelines and working with experts and officials at the state and local levels—masking and other protocols are subject to change as the situation warrants.

Vaccine

Following up on our message of last week, all students, faculty and staff must have at least one dose of the vaccine, or an approved exemption, prior to move-in for the fall semester. Students need to [upload](#) proof of at least one dose to their SPA health portal before their move-in date or they will not have access to residence halls, classrooms and most areas of campus. Students and faculty arriving early for pre-fall programs, athletics, graduate programs, etc. should plan accordingly. **Everyone will need to have their second shot no later than September 15.**

Employees, please use the instructions sent out by human resources to upload your COVID certificate.

Exemptions

Students who want to apply for a religious or medical exemption must fill out the appropriate exemption form as well as the Waiver and Agreement Regarding Immunization Against COVID-19 for Medical or Religious Exemptions ([found on this web page](#)) and upload them to their SPA health portals. Employees, please use the link sent out by human resources to upload your exemptions requests.

Students who receive an exemption should be prepared to submit a negative PCR test taken within five days prior to arrival on campus. They will need to wear masks when indoors (except in their own rooms) and full-time undergraduates will be tested weekly.

Academics

As part of our attempt to return to normalcy, we will not be offering SHU-Flex in the fall. Some courses will have online sections available, but students will not be able to take their full semester completely online. Unvaccinated students who contract COVID and need to quarantine off campus will not be able to attend class remotely.

COVID Protocols

We will have an updated version of the Pioneer Promise for everyone to sign. As a close-knit and caring community, we all have an obligation to continue to consider the health and safety of ourselves and our fellow community members even as we begin to relax our policies and protocols.

As has been the case throughout the pandemic, we will continue to follow the guidance of the CDC, NIH and state and local health officials. That means policies and procedures are subject to change. Already the CDC has issued new guidance that indicates [vaccinated people will need to wear masks indoors in some high-risk areas](#). At this time, Fairfield County is not in that category. Here are some [additional guidelines from the CDC](#) about what is and isn't safe for fully vaccinated people to do. All students should have a supply of masks on campus and carry one at all times. **There will be places and situations on campus that require that all students wear masks.**

Given the unpredictability of the variants, and the changing guidance from the CDC, everyone needs to remain flexible and understand that our guidance may be modified as circumstances change. Additionally, prior to arriving on campus, we are encouraging all students to have preliminary plans in place should there be a need to return home to isolate, etc.

The coronavirus planning team is finalizing plans and protocols for this year's move-in. You can expect to receive that information in next Friday's message.

In the meantime, have a great weekend and be safe,
The Coronavirus Planning Team

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[SHU Coronavirus Website](#)

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