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Coronavirus Update 8-31-21

The Coronavirus Planning Team

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Coronavirus Planning Contact Us coronavirusplanningcontactus@sacredheart.edu

Coronavirus Update 8-31-21

Dear members of the Sacred Heart University community,

We hope everyone is settling into classes, making new friends and/or catching up with old ones, checking out the new dining hall—Thea's Abbey—and enjoying the summer weather before the rain comes tomorrow.

Wear a Mask Indoors!

As you know, we are requiring that everyone wear a mask when indoors, except in their dorm rooms with only roommates present or alone in offices for faculty and staff. Unfortunately, we have observed a significant number of students who are not adhering to this mandate. To be compliant, you need to be wearing a mask that completely covers your nose and mouth. We also request that you not eat or drink in crowded hallways, such as the ones in the main academic building.

We know that the need to wear a mask—especially for those of us who are vaccinated—is tough to swallow after all this time. But, we believe it is a small price to pay to keep our community healthy and safe. With such a big uptick in the delta variant (Fairfield County and the town of Fairfield are both areas of high transmission) we want to prevent the kind of outbreak that will require further restrictions. We also want to remind you that if you do get sick, you will need to isolate off campus. This also applies to any unvaccinated community members who are identified as a close contact and need to quarantine. We will continue to monitor the situation and will change the masking rule when things improve. In the meantime, it is in everyone's best interest that we all cooperate with indoor masking and adhere to this year's version of the [Pioneer Promise](#).

Check Your Symptoms Daily

We want to remind everyone to check in with [CampusClear](#) daily and to stay home with any new symptoms. We know it is tempting to write off new symptoms such as a runny nose or cough as a cold or allergies, but please don't do that. There have been instances of folks doing exactly that and then testing positive for COVID. The Connecticut Department of Public Health has alerted us that the delta variant is widespread in our area. Again, we do not want an outbreak here on campus, so it is important that if we experience any new symptoms, we stay home until we have a negative test.

Deadline for Completing Vaccine Upload

We want to remind you that September 15 is the deadline for completing the upload of your vaccine information to your health portal. That means you should have received the second dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines or the single Johnson & Johnson dose by that date unless you received an approved exemption.

Stay safe out there,
The Coronavirus Planning Team

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Please note: Given the unpredictability of the variants, we will continue to consult with and follow the guidance of the CDC, the Connecticut Department of Health and state and local health officials. We will all need to be flexible and understand that as we continue to work in the best interest of the University community, there will likely be changes and updates. We also suggest that all students have plans in place should there be a need to return home for isolation, quarantining, etc.

[SHU Coronavirus Website](#)

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