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1-8-2021

## Coronavirus Update 1-8-21

The Coronavirus Planning Team

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Fri 1/8/2021 5:15 PM

[coronavirusplanningcontactus@sacredheart.edu](mailto:coronavirusplanningcontactus@sacredheart.edu)

### **Coronavirus Update 1-8-21**

Dear members of the Sacred Heart University community,

As we prepare for the return of students and faculty to campus at the end of this month, we would like to reemphasize how important each of us are to the success of completing a full semester on-ground. Whether at school, at home or anywhere, we need to be extra vigilant about adhering to the [Pioneer Promise](#) so that we minimize the spread of the virus and maximize the health and safety of our community. Each and every one of us is on the front line to protect each other and our University.

We know none of this is easy. It has been a long haul since March, but we now know how critical it is not to socialize in groups—big or small—especially without masks and social distancing. The Pioneer Promise will continue to be a critical tool—one we hope you have been using while at home. That said, we can now look down the road and see a light as more and more people receive the vaccine. Now is not the time to let down our guard. The vaccine is here, but the virus also is more prevalent everywhere than at any other time.

We will, also, continue to provide safe ways to interact and have fun.

#### **Virtual Town Hall Meeting for Students and Parents**

There will be a virtual town hall meeting Tuesday, January 19, at 6 p.m. where representatives from the coronavirus task forces will be able to answer questions about testing, SHU-Flex, health and safety and more regarding the spring semester. We will share how you can submit questions, along with the link to the meeting, soon.

#### **Cautionary Quarantine/Purchase of Books**

We want to reiterate that during the cautionary quarantine that will take place before the start of on-ground classes, off-campus and commuter students should not be on campus. We have heard from some of you that you will need to get your books for the start of classes online. We are working to schedule some times when you will be able to drive up to the bookstore to pick up preordered books. Stay tuned for more details.

#### **Student Testing/Home Testing Kits**

Some of you have asked about home testing options. While Sacred Heart is not working with anyone to provide home testing nor do we recommend any one option over another or guarantee turnaround times, we are attaching to this email a list of options for home testing that you may want to use. We recommend that you order the test kit at least several days to a week ahead of when you plan to collect the sample and that you make sure that the day you collect it is within five business days of when you first plan to be on campus.

**We also want to reiterate that students must participate in the cautionary quarantine to start the semester as well as the University's testing program even if they have had one or both doses of the**

**vaccine or have previously tested positive. This includes the negative COVID PCR test results needed before arrival on campus.**

### **Faculty and Staff Testing**

We want to remind faculty and staff that if you were tested on Wednesday and received a negative result, you are cleared to be on campus beginning Monday. In addition, if you tested positive within 90 days, you do not need to be tested and you are cleared to come to campus. However, if you should begin to experience any new symptoms in the future, you must remain at home (notify your supervisor) and consult with your physician. Anyone who tested positive more than 90 days ago needs to be tested.

If you are working/teaching remotely, you do not need to submit a negative test result. However, if you plan to return to campus for any reason in the future, a negative test result must be submitted.

Even if you have received one or both doses of the COVID vaccine, you must continue to follow SHU testing protocols.

### **Vaccine**

We have learned from the state that faculty and staff will be part of Phase 1B for the vaccination. This is more good news, and we expect to hear more details about this in the next week or two. We will share details as soon as we have them. As you know, our students who have external clinicals are already in the process of receiving the first dose of the vaccine.

### **Positive Cases**

As of today, our [dashboard](#) shows six active cases and one active case isolating on campus. As a reminder, if you were previously in our system as active, and you have not already done so, you must contact health services at 203-371-7838 (students) or provide human resources with documentation of your recovery (faculty and staff) so that you can be cleared to return to campus. If we cannot clear you, we will not be able to allow you on campus.

Have a great weekend!

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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