



Sacred Heart
UNIVERSITY

Sacred Heart University
DigitalCommons@SHU

University Briefings & Virtual Events

Remembering COVID-19 Community Archive

12-2-2021

Coronavirus Update 12-2-21

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](#)

Thu 12/2/2021 4:46 PM

coronavirusplanningcontactus=sacredheart.edu@mg.regroup.com; on behalf of; Coronavirus Planning Contact Us coronavirusplanningcontactus@sacredheart.edu

Coronavirus Update 12-2-21

Dear members of the Sacred Heart University community,

By now, we are sure you have heard about the omicron variant of the coronavirus. It originated in South Africa or Europe, and the first U.S. case has been identified in California. Scientists are still determining if it is more transmissible and/or causes more or less severe disease than other variants (including delta). The World Health Organization is working with researchers to determine the impact the current vaccines will have on omicron.

The arrival of omicron reinforces how critical it is that we remain diligent with our safety measures against the virus. These include getting vaccines and booster shots, wearing masks indoors, maintaining social distancing as much as possible, practicing good hand hygiene and staying home with any symptoms. These practices are also effective against the cold and flu strains that are going around.

Our numbers are up a little bit following the Thanksgiving break with 14 cases in the community reflected on today's dashboard. This reminds us that we need to continue to be proactive to keep our numbers as low as possible. With colder weather keeping us indoors, it is critical that we continue to follow the [Pioneer Promise](#) and work to keep one another healthy and safe.

Pre-break Testing for Students and Faculty

We will not be conducting random testing next week, although mandatory testing will still be required. Rather, we will be offering testing opportunities to students and faculty who want to ensure they are negative before traveling home for the winter break. Testing will be available Monday-Thursday from 8:45 to noon. The testing will be at the library on Monday and Tuesday and at the Edgerton lobby on Wednesday and Thursday. No appointment is necessary.

Testing will be offered to staff and any remaining faculty before the start of Christmas break.

Expanded Booster Clinics Planned for December 11-12

Hartford HealthCare will offer clinics for booster shots on Saturday, December 11, and Sunday December 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. by appointment only in the **Edgerton lobby**. These clinics will be expanded to 200 slots. The links to sign up will be provided next week. We ask that you please keep your appointment if you sign up. We have had as many as 30 no-shows at recent clinics, which is unfair to others who were shut out when they tried to sign up.

To be eligible for the boosters provided (Moderna and Pfizer), you must be at least six months past your second dose. If you are immunocompromised, you can receive a booster after only 28 days from your second dose. If you do not meet the criteria for a booster, you will not receive the shot.

We want to encourage all eligible members of the community to receive a booster before returning to campus for the spring semester. With the advent of the omicron variant, the CDC is now recommending

that all adults 18 and older receive a booster once they are eligible. If you are looking for a booster once you are home, we recommend making an appointment with [Walgreens](#) or [CVS](#).

Travel Abroad Protocols

Given new developments in vaccine requirements and expiration dates, we will require that all students obtain COVID-19 booster shots prior to departure for their Spring 2022 study abroad experience. If you are unable to get a booster in time or are not yet eligible, please work with our locations on the ground or partner institutions to secure your booster as soon as possible.

Beginning January 1, we require all faculty and staff traveling abroad for approved, business-related reasons to receive a COVID-19 booster shot prior to departure.

Protocol For Those Exposed to Someone Who Tests Positive

We have received quite a few questions about what to do if you are exposed to someone who tests positive. If you are symptomatic, please do not come to campus. If you are not symptomatic and vaccinated, you may come to campus but must wear a mask at all times indoors and be tested within five to seven days of exposure. If you are unvaccinated, you will need to quarantine for 10 days. The [infographic on the COVID-19 Campus Status page](#) outlines the appropriate protocols.

We wish you all good health and good luck as you prepare for your finals.

Thank you,
The Coronavirus Planning Team

--

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](#)

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