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Coronavirus Update 1-5-21

The Coronavirus Planning Team

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coronavirusplanningcontactus@sacredheart.edu

Coronavirus Update 1-5-21

Dear members of the Sacred Heart University community,

We have received emails in our coronavirusplanningcontactus@sacredheart.edu mailbox regarding testing and other protocols for your return to campus. We are going to try to answer those questions here. Faculty and staff received an email from human resources yesterday that answered the questions we have been receiving from them.

The country is currently experiencing increases in COVID-19 cases in most states, including a new strain that seems to spread even more easily than the previous one. Because of that, we have strengthened our protocols regarding quarantining and testing for the beginning of the semester. We are doing that to maximize our chances of starting the semester healthy until the arrival of warmer weather and the increased availability of the vaccine. We appreciate your patience and cooperation.

Testing Requirements for Student Return to Campus

You will need to submit to your student health portal the results of a negative PCR COVID test taken within five business days of your arrival on campus. Residential students have been notified of their move-in dates, so please plan accordingly. We recommend that you try to schedule your appointment as soon as possible to decrease the chance that you won't be able to be tested during the designated time frame.

Once on campus, you will be tested again by the University. You will be tested again a week later. We then will continue to test you throughout the semester on a schedule to be announced. That said, you should plan on being tested weekly in the immediate future.

Please note: If you tested positive for COVID-19 within 90 days of your return to campus, you are exempt from submitting a negative test result. You do, however, need to submit your positive test result to your student health portal and contact student health services at 203-371-7838. **Both these things need to be done before you can return to campus.**

Quarantine Requirements for Return to Campus

We are asking that you all self-quarantine at home for 7-10 days before coming to campus. Please do not attend gatherings or have goodbye outings with friends during your last 10 days at home. Limiting your activity in the days before you come back will help ensure that we all start off the semester as healthy as possible and do not bring the virus to campus.

Once on campus, we will implement a cautionary quarantine to create a campus "bubble." This cautionary quarantine will mean that you will need to remain on campus and use remote learning options until the start of on-ground classes on Feb. 8. You may, however, leave your rooms, go on brief walks and pick up grab-and-go meals from the dining halls. In addition, there may be limited workout slots available at the recreation center, along with other activities. More to come on all of this.

Off-campus and commuting students will also need to self-quarantine for 10-14 days before visiting campus and/or your first day on campus for classes.

Vaccine

We are following state guidelines regarding those eligible for a vaccine, starting with those who will be working in clinical settings. You should follow up with your respective dean if you believe you meet the criteria for a vaccine.

Positive Cases

As of Thursday, our dashboard showed 51 active cases. Many of those represent cases where we have not yet received confirmation of recovery. If you are in our system as active, 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. Students who are still listed as active have been sent emails.

As a reminder, classes will start online on February 1, with on-ground classes beginning February 8. Here on campus, we are gearing up for your arrival with deep cleaning, sanitizing, gathering of PPE and more. We are excited to welcome you all back and to have a fun and rewarding semester as we continue with the Pioneer Promise, social distancing, masks and frequent hand washing.

Happy new year, everyone!

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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