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Coronavirus Update 12-30-21

The Coronavirus Planning Team

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

Coronavirus Update 12-30-21

Dear members of the Sacred Heart University community,

We hope you all have been having a safe and relaxing break and enjoying time with family and friends. With continued concerns about the highly transmissible omicron variant and updated information from the CDC, members of the coronavirus planning team have been meeting to determine the best approach for keeping everyone safe for the coming semester. We wanted to send you a quick update on those meetings. We expect to have more information about updated guidelines and procedures as we get closer to the beginning of the spring semester, and we will continue to communicate with you as soon as decisions are made.

What to Do If You Test Positive During Break

Students who test positive during break will need to inform health services. You will need to upload documentation to your student health portal. This may include a positive PCR or rapid antigen test, or documentation from your local health provider if you originally tested positive using an at-home rapid test. Once you have uploaded documentation to your health portal, you will receive a phone call from Health Services to clear you to return to campus and answer any questions you may have.

Employees who test positive with an at-home kit, must notify Julia Nofri in human resources. You will need to submit a PCR test to confirm the positive result. Protocol for isolation and return to work will be provided by HR upon notification.

Masking

With the omicron variant so highly transmissible, we will need to be very diligent about masking when we return to campus. You will need to wear your masks correctly whenever you are not alone in your dorm rooms or offices. Whenever you have guests, you will need to be masked. We will be redoubling our efforts on campus to make sure that masks are worn correctly.



The CDC is now recommending double masking in some cases. Best practices for masking techniques can be [found on the CDC website](#).

Social Distancing

We will also be asking you to be mindful of social distancing once back on campus. Please try to stay six feet apart whenever possible. Employees should limit one-on-one in person meetings as much as possible during the month of January, and all other meetings should be virtual.

Stay Home if You Feel Sick

The [symptoms of the omicron variant](#) are not always obvious, especially among the fully vaccinated. Please stay home even if you only have minor symptoms of a cold or allergies. Supervisors will send any employees home who are showing signs of illness.

Testing for Employees

Just a reminder that we are requiring a PCR test upon reentry for the spring semester. We will provide testing on Monday, January 3, Monday, January 10, and subsequent Mondays from 8:45 to 1 p.m. at the Edgerton. You should be tested as close to your return to work as possible. For example, if you return on January 3, you must be tested that day. If you return January 4 to January 10, you need to be tested on January 10, etc. You will need to [sign up](#) for these testing clinics. Make sure you are looking at the January calendar!

Booster Clinics

We are working on scheduling booster clinics on campus in January. We will provide the details as soon as we have them. Just a reminder that students will need to upload the information regarding their boosters to their health portals. Employees will receive instructions at a later time on how to report their booster information.

Study and Travel Abroad

International business travel for faculty and staff to countries determined by the CDC as [level 4 and unknown status](#) is still suspended. Students going on semester-long study abroad programs are encouraged to monitor the U.S. Embassy website for updates from local authorities in their destination countries.

We continue to be upbeat about the spring semester and our ability to stay healthy and on ground. All indications are that this is a fast-moving variant and if we follow our [Pioneer Promise](#) and respect ourselves and one another, we will have another very successful semester.

Enjoy the rest of your break,
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](#)

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

