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1-13-2022

## Coronavirus Update 1-13-2022

The Coronavirus Planning Team

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## Coronavirus Update 1-13-22

Dear members of the Sacred Heart University community,

We hope you had a fun and relaxing break and are looking forward to an equally fun and successful spring semester! We are excited to have you back on campus. You should have received an email from residential life letting you know that you can choose to move in on Sunday beginning at 1 p.m. because of predictions on an impending storm Sunday night into Monday. Move-in will also continue on Monday.

As you know, we have been extremely successful keeping the community safe and the number of COVID cases low. This has been a result of vaccinations, testing and your diligence with masking and other safety protocols. Because the omicron variant is so highly transmissible, it presents some different challenges than we have previously faced, but nothing that we can't handle. We expect that—despite our best efforts—we will have more active cases for the next month or so. To minimize that as much as possible, we have made the following decisions:

- The shuttle to downtown Fairfield will be eliminated temporarily
- The number of people in the health & recreation center will be limited temporarily
- We will limit the number of spectators at indoor sporting events
- The ban on events on campus by outside organizations will continue
- There temporarily will be no food or beverages served at indoor events; grab & go options will be allowed
- The dining halls will offer more grab & go items for students who want that option
- There will continue to be no food or drink during classes

### What Students Should Expect if they Test Positive for COVID through On-Campus Testing

- For at least the first few weeks of the semester, you will not receive a phone call if you test positive for COVID
- You will be notified at your SHU email address by a message from [Covidalertdonotreply@sacredheart.edu](mailto:Covidalertdonotreply@sacredheart.edu). You will not be able to respond to this email
- Notifications will take place from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. It typically takes 24-48 hours from the time the test was collected to get results back; however the high volume of testing may result in delays
- All results will be available in the student health portal approximately two to five days after the test, depending on volume. You will get your positive result via email before it appears in your portal. To check test results, log in to your portal and select “view my test results”
- You will need to isolate **five full days from the day the test was taken**. Instructions for isolation will be included in the notification email
- You should have a plan in place to get home for isolation
- Clearance from isolation will occur on day six as long as clearance criteria are met; isolation criteria will be included in your notification email

**Employees, please note:** You will receive a separate communication from HR about what happens if you test positive.

## Masks

- We will continue to require masks indoors unless you are in your dorm room or alone in your office
- If guests visit your room or office, you will need to mask up
- Masks need to be **well-fitting** and must cover the area from your nose to your chin
- The CDC no longer recommends cloth masks, so wear a surgical mask if you can
- Professors will **instruct you to leave the classroom** if masks are not worn correctly. This will count as an unexcused absence. Second mask offenses both inside and outside the classroom will be referred to the office of the dean of students for discipline
- Please do not eat and drink in crowded hallways. Holding a water bottle does not mean you don't have to wear your mask

## Testing

Your pre-arrival test is an important component of our plan to combat the omicron variant. We know that it has been tough to find tests, but we ask for your persistence. Ideally, we would like a PCR test taken within 72 hours of your arrival. In lieu of that, please take an at-home rapid test just before you get in the car to head to campus. If it is positive, upload your results to your health portal and **stay home**. You only need to upload positive results. Bring your negative result to your on-campus testing appointment next week.

- All undergraduate students will need to be tested next week. Testing will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Edgerton Center lobby
- You will need to [register](#) for the test. **Faculty and staff may register for testing on Monday only**
- Unvaccinated and partially vaccinated students will continue to be tested weekly
- We will continue our random asymptomatic testing as circumstances warrant throughout the semester

## Booster Clinic on Sunday

- The best way to prevent getting COVID is vaccination plus a booster as soon as you are eligible
- The timing for the Pfizer and Moderna booster has now been shortened to five months from the date of your second vaccination. The timing for Johnson & Johnson is two months from the time of your vaccination
- **There will be a booster clinic on campus on Sunday** (January 16) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Edgerton Center atrium. All three boosters will be offered. The clinic is available to the SHU community and members of the general public. There will be 100 doses available on a first come, first served basis

## There's Some Good News

All indications from public health officials are that while highly contagious, omicron is a fast-moving and much milder variant, especially for those who are vaccinated and boosted. We will get past this.

See you soon,

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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