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Coronavirus Update 2-24-22

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 2-24-22

Dear members of the Sacred Heart University community,

Given the low numbers of positive cases on campus and the trends at other campuses and in towns and cities in the area, we are modifying our indoor mask mandate, effective March 1. At that time, you will no longer need to wear a mask indoors, except in the following places:

- Classrooms
- Student health services
- Labs and clinicals
- Varsity and club sports athletics training rooms
- Shuttles

These are areas where people are obligated to be in close proximity so, for now, we will continue to wear masks in these areas to protect ourselves and others.

We know there are mixed opinions on this—we have heard from many of you who fall on both sides of the mask-wearing debate. Recently a health professions professor polled her class of graduate students and was a little surprised that the majority of them supported masking, especially in the classroom. Many wanted to do their part to help keep others safe, while others wanted to make sure they stayed healthy so they or their friends could participate in sports and other activities.

The CDC is still recommending that masks be worn indoors. We recommend that as well, but will no longer require it, except in the places noted above. Please respect the decisions of others to wear or not wear a mask. We know that goes without saying. Our community is known for its respect and caring for others.

We still encourage both students and staff who have any new symptoms to stay home until you have a negative test. If you do come to campus when you are not feeling 100%, we ask that you mask up whenever you are indoors.

As we have all along, we will continue to follow the data, consider the guidance of the CDC and state and local health officials as well as the status of the virus on campus and in the surrounding areas. That means that our policies may become less restrictive or more restrictive at any time.

Pre-Arrival Testing After Spring Break

Just like the beginning of the semester, we want all students to be tested before you return to campus after spring break. We will be providing you with at-home tests before you leave for break, and we are asking that you take the test the morning that you first plan to return to campus. If you test positive, you will need to report it to SHU by filling out [this online questionnaire](#) and uploading a photo of your

positive test to your Student Health Portal. You must then isolate at home until you receive your clearance to return to campus. If you test negative, you do not need to upload a photo of your negative test to your portal, but you should bring the test with you to campus. Tests will be distributed in the residence halls next Tuesday and Wednesday. Students who live off campus can pick up a test at the following locations:

- The campus concierge in the Main Academic Building
- The IT help desk at West Campus
- The IT help desk at the Center for Healthcare Education

Student Deadlines for Booster Shots

We want to remind all students of the deadlines for getting your booster shot. Recent studies have shown that having the booster is the best defense against the Omicron variant. You should receive your booster **as soon as possible** once you become eligible and **no later than March 15**. The timing for the Pfizer and Moderna booster is five months from the date of your second vaccination. The timing for Johnson & Johnson is two months from the time of your vaccination. To help with this, we are working toward a booster clinic on campus soon.

Have a great weekend,
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