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The Coronavirus Planning Team
Sacred Heart University

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Coronavirus Update 8-4-2022

Sent Fri 8/5/2022 12:45 PM

Dear members of the Sacred Heart University community,

With most students coming to campus in just a few weeks, we want to fill you in on our COVID protocols as we start the year. As always, we are following [CDC guidelines](#) and the advice of state and local health officials. As the virus has evolved, so have our tools and methods for combatting it, along with the guidance from public health officials, and we have revised our [Pioneer Promise](#) to reflect that. While most of the restrictions in the promise are no longer in place, the overall message of the promise will never change. We all have an individual responsibility to mitigate the spread of illness on campus. We do it for ourselves and out of respect for others.

Vaccination

Last spring, we made the decision to recommend, but not to require, vaccination for the fall. We will continue to follow the evolution of the virus and the guidance of the CDC.

Prearrival Testing

We encourage you to take a rapid COVID test before you get in the car to come to campus. If you test positive, please stay home and follow the [CDC isolation protocols](#).

Testing Positive on Campus—Students

If you test positive once you are on campus, you will need to let your professors know, and you will need to go home to isolate. Temporary isolation on campus for no longer than 24 hours may be provided as needed. You should follow [CDC guidelines](#) regarding isolation and quarantine.

Testing Positive on Campus—Employees

You will need to have a discussion with your supervisor—just as you would do with any other illness. You should follow [CDC guidelines](#) regarding isolation and quarantine. You do not need to notify human resources unless your illness is severe enough to require time off beyond five days. In that case, employees/supervisors should contact Sally Schettino, director of employee relations and wellness, to establish a medical leave of absence. You are no longer required to upload test results to the employee portal. That portal has been closed.

Masks

Masks will not be mandatory inside or outside. You may choose to wear one or not. Nobody should be made to feel uncomfortable about their decision either way. There may be instances when a professor will require masks in a classroom or lab.

Off-campus Guests

For now, there will be no off-campus guests in the residence halls. However, you may visit from hall to hall.

COVID Supplies

We have supplies of rapid tests, masks and hand sanitizer available for community members. You can find them in the residence halls, with the concierge in the Naclerio wing of the Main Academic Building and at CHE and West Campus.

Study Abroad

Students who are studying abroad should follow the guidelines of their host countries. You can also always reach out to the Office of Global Affairs for information.

All of these policies are subject to change should circumstances shift surrounding the virus.

Monkeypox

The monkeypox virus and SHU's response to it will fall under the purview of the coronavirus planning team. Yesterday, the United States declared a public health emergency regarding the spread of monkeypox. As we have done with the coronavirus, we will follow [CDC guidelines](#) and the advice of state and local health officials. However, we want to emphasize that monkeypox is much different from COVID. According to the CDC, it is not spread as easily—it is spread primarily through close intimate contact with someone who has monkeypox. In addition, there is a vaccine, although supplies are currently limited. It is also usually not life threatening.

As always, the health and safety of our community is our top priority. We are looking forward to welcoming you all to campus and to having a fun and rewarding semester.

Enjoy the rest of the summer,
The Coronavirus Planning Team

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[SHU Coronavirus Website](#)

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