



March 23, 2020

Dear Members of the University Community,

The painful development that is affecting so many families across the globe is now part of our University family. Yesterday, we learned that a student has tested positive for the novel coronavirus disease, COVID-19.

The student first developed symptoms late last week, getting tested for COVID-19 after consulting a physician. The test was positive. The student lives off campus and attended student gatherings on 400 block of Clay Avenue in Scranton on March 14. **It is not clear where or precisely when the student contracted the virus.** The student is recovering from symptoms at home at this time.

Given community spread through multiple states, Student Health Services advises students and all members of the University community to self monitor and consult a medical professional should they develop symptoms of COVID-19.

Even though we have known that the coronavirus could and would touch our community, this is certainly difficult news to receive, causing anxiety and fear. It is the reason behind the precautions we have taken and continue to take as we try to cope with this unprecedented situation.

We must and will continue to practice social distancing and try to minimize the risk to all members of our community. We will continue to support faculty, staff, and administrators as we work remotely to minimize the number of those on campus and teach courses remotely at least through the end of Easter break.

During this time of great anxiety, please know that we are here to support one another. I am in awe of the miraculous ways in which our faculty, staff, and administrators are rising to the occasion to serve our students and one another. I hope, even though distance separates us, our students know that we are in this together; you remain in my prayers.

To quote St. Robert Southwell, S.J., “Not where I breathe, but where I love, I live” and our love for this community will keep us close no matter the distance.

Please join me in praying for the health and wellbeing of our students and of all members of the University community, as well as others throughout the world who are affected by this disease. We will continue to share information about other ways the virus might be affecting the University community through our website: www.scranton.edu/covid-19.

May God bless and keep you and may God bless The University of Scranton.

Sincerely,

Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J.
President