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## Chancellor Messages\_We're Making Plans to be Ready for Coronavirus

Dannel P. Malloy

*University of Maine System*

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## UMS Community Guidance

For Everyone

For Students

For Employees **New ▲**

For Travelers **New ▲**

## UMS Campus Specific Information

University of Maine

University of Maine at Augusta

University of Maine at Farmington

University of Maine at Fort Kent

University of Maine at Machias

University of Maine at Presque Isle

University of Southern Maine

University of Maine School of Law

## Public Health Resources

Maine Center for Disease Control —  
Coronaviruses

CDC Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

## Announcements

Chancellor Malloy: Our Continued  
Commitment to UMS Employees  
April 3, 2020

Student Fee Adjustment and Rebate  
Policy by April 15  
April 1, 2020

Chancellor Malloy: Celebrating  
Commencement During the COVID-19  
Pandemic  
March 30, 2020

Pass/Fail Options Extended At UMS  
Universities  
March 25, 2020

Chancellor Malloy: We're All in This  
Together  
March 24, 2020

Mills Administration, Public Higher  
Education Systems Coordinating  
Response to COVID-19  
March 24, 2020

Identifying University Resources and  
Materials for the COVID Response Effort  
March 23, 2020

Chancellor Malloy: Full Pay Commitment  
to Regular Employees Through April 4  
March 19, 2020

Universities Inventorying Resources for  
Maine's Coronavirus Response  
March 19, 2020

Universities Transition Employees To  
Remote Work Thursday, March 19  
March 18, 2020

UMS To Continue Paying Federal Work  
Study Students  
March 18, 2020

Spring Break Extended Two Days:  
Classes Resume March 25th  
March 18, 2020

Chancellor Malloy: Working Remotely and  
March 25 Start of Classes  
March 18, 2020

Room and Board Adjustments and  
Rebates  
March 17, 2020

Chancellor Malloy: Focusing on Faculty  
and Staff Needs  
March 17, 2020

UMS Technology Resource Update  
March 16, 2020

Chancellor Malloy: Event Restrictions On  
Gatherings and Other Updates  
March 12, 2020

Student Room and Board Refunds: UMS  
posting guidance before Noon on  
Wednesday, March 18th  
March 12, 2020

Travel Assistance Hotline for UMS  
Employees and Students  
March 11, 2020

Chancellor Malloy Message on Transition  
to Online Instruction  
March 11, 2020

University UMS COVID-19 Directives  
prohibit non-essential university air travel,  
opens residence halls for spring break,  
sets March 23 deadline for continuity of  
instruction planning  
March 10, 2020

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)  
Information University of Maine System  
March 9, 2020

Students and Employees Urged to Update  
Emergency Contact Information  
March 8, 2020

UMS COVID-19 Guidance on University  
Travel for Business and Personal Travel  
March 5, 2020

UMS Guidance for International Travelers  
March 4, 2020

Governor Mills Convenes Coronavirus  
Response Team  
March 2, 2020

Travel Monitoring and Prohibitions:  
University Travel to Italy Prohibited  
March 1, 2020

We're Making Plans to be Ready for  
Coronavirus  
February 28, 2020

# We're Making Plans to be Ready for Coronavirus

28  
FEB 2020

Colleagues,

Last month I [updated you](#) on the coronavirus and the initial work our emergency response teams are doing in coordination with the Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention and Maine Emergency Management Agency to track the spread of the disease, share information, and to be ready to act if a local response becomes necessary.

While there still have not been any reported cases in Maine, the disease is spreading internationally, and people in our communities are understandably anxious. I am stepping up our planning and communication now because it's the right thing to do. While our communities need not panic, every member of our community deserves access to information about the current public health risks associated with the coronavirus and our plans to prepare and respond.

We also need to be sure that everyone has the best available advice from health experts on the common sense steps we can all take to reduce the spread of infectious disease. As Nirav D. Shah, Director of the Maine CDC [reminded us yesterday](#), "Eat well, get plenty of sleep, and practice good hygiene. Healthy habits save lives."

Yesterday our core emergency response staff and our Presidents and I, joined by our counterparts from the Maine Community College System and Maine Maritime Academy, reviewed this list of six initial [UMS Action Steps for Coronavirus Preparations](#).

Starting today we have launched a daily community update that we will post and archive on the University of Maine System website every business day. If there is an urgent matter requiring more immediate attention, you will hear directly from me or your campus leadership or be contacted through our emergency alert system.

To that end we will be conducting a comprehensive outreach next week to ask every student and university employee to update their emergency contact information in Blackboard (and on MaineStreet). We will need accurate information to accommodate distance learning options whether it be for students returning home early from a study abroad program or if campus operations or instruction are curtailed in any way.

We are not overreacting. We are preparing. There is no reason yet to expect that any campus closures will be needed. We will continue to monitor medical advances and prevention efforts intended to prevent coronavirus from requiring pandemic responses. Still, an actionable continuity of instruction plan is the right thing to have, and we intend to be ready to limit risks associated with infectious disease or other emergency situations.

I have directed UMS Chief Information Officer David Demers and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Robert Placido to update and build awareness about our existing continuity of instruction plans in coordination with our campus academic leaders and faculty and our incident and emergency response teams in place and working on all campuses. I'll also be ready to talk about this with you on my visits to your campus this spring.

To repeat, we're not overreacting. We're planning, and we're going to be transparent about it. We'll be as ready as we can be so we can continue to serve our students and protect our communities' public health.

Thank you for attention to this message and to the updates that are to come.

Sincerely,

Dannel P. Malloy  
Chancellor