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Chancellor Messages_Event Restrictions On Gatherings and Other Updates

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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

Chancellor Malloy: Event Restrictions On Gatherings and Other Updates

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MAR 2020

UMS Community –

I am committed to reaching out to you as often as necessary in these challenging times to keep you informed of what we are doing to protect the public health of our universities and Maine communities in the face of the global coronavirus pandemic. Since we first began closely monitoring the coronavirus situation in late January, our plan has been to prepare responsibly and prudently, but without over-reacting. Our two goals have been to protect both public health and our students' ability to continue their academic progress. Our prudent actions so far balance and advance both.

Yesterday we announced unprecedented plans to transition academic instruction to online and other distance modalities and significantly reduce residence hall occupancy starting March 23 — all in order to reduce the risk of coronavirus spread in Maine following Spring Break. And in just the last 24 hours, new developments require more responsible and proactive steps from UMS, and I want you to know about them immediately.

Last night, the President of the United States announced sweeping travel restrictions to attempt to reduce the spread of the virus in our country. Earlier today, Maine Governor Janet Mills announced Maine's first presumptive case of COVID-19 in Androscoggin County. And as USM's student newspaper has reported, a student on the Gorham campus presented herself to university officials with symptoms that led health professionals to conduct a test for the coronavirus. I'm grateful for the student's responsible action and the university's quick response to her health concerns with appropriate measures given the heightened concerns around COVID-19. We expect the results of the test tomorrow, but I am sharing this news now because you deserve to be fully informed. If the student's test is positive, the Maine CDC will immediately begin work to reach out to anyone known to have been in contact with the student with the full support of the University of Maine System and the University of Southern Maine.

Pass/Fail Option for Students

We are very conscious of supporting our students through the academic transition coming up. To mitigate the impact of COVID-19 disruptions through the transition, a pass/fail option is being considered for students enrolled in spring classes. Our universities will provide more information for students when these options are finalized.

Event Restrictions

In addition to our previous public health directives, effective Friday, March 13, at 5:00 p.m. and through Sunday, April 12, UMS will follow Governor Mills's recommendation to postpone all gatherings expected to or actually involving 250 attendees or more. This restriction includes any events on University property, events being hosted by the University in a non-University location, and official participation by university students, staff and faculty in such events regardless of location.

Practice Social Distancing

UMS strongly encourages all members of its community to learn about and practice social distancing, such as avoiding large crowds, staying home if you are sick, and avoiding close contact (nearer than 6 feet) to other people. Please review the CDC's guidance regarding keeping yourself safe [here](#).

Understand Risk Factors

According to the CDC, older Americans and individuals with certain pre-existing health conditions are at higher risk for Covid-19. Please take time to review information about those risk factors and actions which individuals at higher risk can take is available [here](#).

These are unprecedented times, and we will manage best by honestly confronting these public health challenges together. Thank you for the work you are doing every day to help our students and each other carry on our important mission in Maine.

Sincerely,

Dannel P. Malloy