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Return to Campus_Faculty and Staff Guidance

University of Maine

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Return to Campus

Faculty- and staff-related topics

[UMaine and UMM community public health alert system](#)

[UMaine, UMM community members returning to campus](#)

UMS community guidance

[Guidance for employees](#)

[Guidance for travelers](#)

The Framework for Reopening Maine's Colleges and Universities in Fall 2020

[VIEW PDF](#)

Guidance for faculty and staff

June 2020

The University of Maine System has provided [guidance on employees returning to work](#) after June 1. It is important to note that employees are asked to telecommute or otherwise work remotely from home to the maximum extent possible through June 30, 2020.

- UMaine Cabinet members and deans are responsible for requesting specific employees return to work on campus and for submitting plans to the [UMaine emergency operations center](#) (EOC). Return to work-related questions for the EOC can be submitted to um.eoc@maine.edu.

- UMaine, UMM and UMS are following state and federal health and safety guidelines, and guidance from Maine civil authorities. Our EOC and Science Advisory Board are working closely with the UMS [Fall 2020 Safe Return Planning Committee](#) to develop operational plans and protocols to safely welcome students, employees, and the public back to campus. Continuing to comply with state health guidance, Maine's public universities will be ready to return to face-to-face instruction if group gatherings and interaction are permissible and advisable by the end of August.

- Members of the UMaine and UMM communities are strongly encouraged to wear face masks on campus at all times and to practice good hand washing procedures and social distancing standards of being at least 6 feet apart. However, when social distancing is not possible, the state of Maine **requires** that cloth face coverings be worn by employees to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

- More information is online under the heading: [Should I wear a face covering while working?](#) University of Maine System Safety Management also has a [video](#) about protocols for voluntary use of filtering facepieces and cloth face coverings.

- Two reusable cloth face coverings will be made available to each UMaine and UMM employee on return to campus. Colleges and departments can use the online [COVID-19 Essential Supplies Request Form](#) to order as-needed supplies, such as hand sanitizer, cloth face coverings, disposable surgical face masks, clear hygiene barriers and social distancing floor signs.

- Other protective measures include the installation of hand sanitizer stations and hygiene barriers in high services areas. Signage will be strategically placed as a reminder to maintain social distancing, the need for frequent handwashing and what to do when you feel ill.

- UMS Safety Management offers guidance through the portal to University of Maine System employees. Its [website](#) includes factsheets on [office safety guidance](#), [the physical demands of returning to the workplace](#), and [a workspace checklist](#).

- According to federal health and safety guidance, no special personal protective equipment (PPE) or cleaning processes are needed for cleaning above and beyond normal practices. UMS Safety Management has instituted protocols for use of disinfectants rated to work on coronavirus. Restrooms campuswide are cleaned and disinfected daily. Hand sanitation stations are being added campuswide.

- Currently, UMaine does not offer testing for COVID-19. Testing is offered by Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor for those who are symptomatic, with a physician's order. At this time, antigen testing is not readily available in Maine. For those who are asymptomatic, their primary care physicians (PCPs) or insurance providers can provide guidance on obtaining a COVID antigen test kit.

- The UMaine Science Advisory Board is actively reviewing testing options, availability of both serology and viral testing within the current state guidelines, logistics of large group testing, medical oversight requirements, laboratory resources on and off campus, as well as requirements to process test samples.

- **Maine's public universities will be ready to return to face-to-face instruction under the state health and safety guidelines in place at the end of August.** We are making plans for in-person, online, remote and hybrid course offerings.

- For both university communities, health and safety updates will continue to be available through our alerts process. Details about that notification system are [online](#).

- UMaine and UMM COVID-19-related updates continue to be available online in the [FAQs](#) and on the coronavirus [homepage](#). For other questions, call UMaine's COVID-19 information line, 207.581.2681, or email umaine.alerts@maine.edu.

- Please practice safety as a standard and please call on your supervisor if you have questions or concerns.

