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Matthew Revitt <matthew.revitt@maine.edu>

Happy and Healthy Holiday Wishes

1 message

Maine's Public Universities <chancellorsoffice@maine.edu>

Thu, Dec 16, 2021 at 11:26 AM

Reply-To: chancellorsoffice@maine.edu

To: matthew.revitt@maine.edu

**December 16, 2021**

Chancellor Malloy's Video Holiday Message



UMS Community Members:

We've reached the end of classes for our Fall 2021 semester, and exams are nearly complete now too. Congratulations on your hard work this fall!

We got to this point together safely, as we hoped and planned. We've managed COVID case loads and testing positivity on our campuses far below the case and testing positivity rates in Maine and the country at large, even recently with the pandemic raging anew all around us. That we did is a testament to your hard and often tireless work, and probably more importantly, your near-universal communal

discipline to our science-based COVID protocols, including our 95+ percent vaccination rate, our masking indoors, and our ongoing COVID testing.

Students, you achieved 100 percent compliance with our COVID vaccine, exemption, and testing protocols. I could not be prouder of your accomplishments. Among the entire UMS community of faculty, staff, and students, we've taken more than 200,000 COVID tests since the start of the pandemic, and our positivity rate over that time is *less than one-half of one percent*. This is an astounding accomplishment over the course of the pandemic, and it's kept us together safely. I can't thank you enough, individually and collectively, for all you have done to make our commitment to being together for Maine and each other such a success.

When exams are completed, I hope every member of the UMS community has an opportunity to rest, reflect, and enjoy the holiday season with friends and loved ones. It's a break we all deserve.

Then we'll look ahead, as we must. The spring semester will be upon us soon, and the pandemic isn't going away. Fortunately, we know what we must do to stay together safely next semester too.

While you're away, please stick to the same basics we've followed here. When you're out in close gatherings or especially indoors, please wear a face covering. It works just as well off campus in between semesters as it did for us through the fall!

If you haven't already and you can, please get vaccinated. Maine's largest healthcare system reported recently that 17 of its 20 COVID patients on ventilators were not vaccinated. You are anywhere from ten to twenty times more likely to get seriously ill or die from COVID if you are not vaccinated, and vaccination protects you from getting and spreading COVID to your friends and loved ones too. Bottom line, if you haven't yet, I hope getting vaccinated is at the top of your holiday to-do list.

Even if you're already vaccinated, please get a booster shot as soon as you can. The latest news suggests that a booster lessens the impact or severity of the new fast-spreading Omicron variant. By getting a booster now too, you'll have done your part to make sure our spring semester can be even safer than the semester you're just finishing.

Wishing you all the best for a happy and healthy holiday season,

Sincerely,



Chancellor
University of Maine System

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