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UMS_Community Guidance_What is the Status of Group Sizes, In-person Class Sizes, Public Access and General University Operations

University of Maine System

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Everyone

Together for Maine Plan

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- Chancellor's Message
- Safe Return Planning
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- Safe Return Committees

Community Guidance

- Everyone
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Recent Updates

- Calendar and Operational Changes, 20% Room and Board Reduction for Fall Semester Announced
August 14, 2020
- PRESS RELEASE: University of Maine System Extending Asymptomatic COVID-19 Testing Across 3 Phases
August 12, 2020
- New Guidance on Face Coverings, International Travel and Operations
August 10, 2020

Earlier Updates

- August 2020 (3)
- June 2020 (1)
- April 2020 (9)
- March 2020 (25)
- February 2020 (4)



For Everyone

- Extending Asymptomatic COVID-19 Testing Across 3 Phases (8/12/2020) +
- Who Needs to Quarantine or Self-Isolate (8/12/2020) +
- Do I need to wear a face covering on campus? (08/10/2020) +
- What is the status of group size limits, in-person class size limits, public access and general University operations? (08/10/2020) -

The Universities of the University of Maine System are looking forward to welcoming students to campus for the fall 2020 semester. University instruction and operations have continued throughout the pandemic and they are continuing today, often in new and different ways, to promote both safety and the ability of students, faculty and staff to be together.

Faculty and staff are anticipated to return to campus in greater numbers in August, as the start of the fall semester approaches. The University will continue to support substantial remote working by employees and will encourage employees to be on campus only when necessary or substantially advantageous for academic purposes or other job duties. This will mean more routine access to campus for employees but not a complete return to pre-pandemic time on campus. Employees should continue to coordinate with their supervisor prior to returning to campus to ensure alignment with department staffing plans and to ensure that safety protocols and supplies are in place.

The University of Maine System currently has these overall special provisions in place regarding its operations and in-person activities:

- **Public access to campus:** University campuses in general are open to those who have business which they need to conduct with the University. Members of the public who have specific business with the University, such as the need for a trip to the bookstore or a fitness facility, are asked to limit their time on campus to the time necessary to conduct that business. University dining facilities are not be open to the public at this time. It is always suggested that visitors call ahead before undertaking their trip to ensure their business can be conducted. Members of the public – those are who are not students, staff or faculty – who can defer their business or who have no bona fide need to be on campus are asked to avoid visiting campus at this time.
- **General group size limits:** In-person group gathering on campus or for University business are limited to not more than 50 persons in keeping with the directives of Maine Civil Authorities. Such gathering must be consistent with the other guidance of civil authorities such as those requiring social distancing and face coverings. The University routinely monitors the guidance of civil authorities and is aware this is an example of an area where the University's guidance is within but more restrictive than the civil guidance.
- **In-person instruction group size limits:** In-person classes will be limited to no more than 30 people being present at any one time, unless a special allowance is provided by the respective University's leadership. Face coverings and

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instruction format to ensure any in-person instruction can adhere to the class size limit and the physical distancing, face covering and other pandemic protocols.

- **Community spaces and facilities such as libraries, museums, gyms, retail stores, computer labs, and study hall:** These spaces may now operate consistent with the group gathering guidance above, upon approval by campus leadership and the campus emergency operations team, and in compliance with any other requirements which may be in place by civil authorities in Maine, in particular the industry-specific guidance which may be available and applicable from the Department of Economic and Community Development.
- **Childcare centers:** Any childcare facilities operated by the University, under its auspices or in University facilities may now operate upon approval by campus leadership and the campus emergency operations team, and in compliance with any other requirements that may be in place by civil authorities in Maine, in particular the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Economic and Community Development.

The response to COVID-19 continues to be a rapidly evolving situation even at this stage of the pandemic and this guidance is subject to change. Interested individuals and organizations are encouraged to check [Together for Maine](#) routinely for updates. Employees and students in particular are encouraged to check the relevant sections of the web site for information particular to their needs.
(Last reviewed/updated: 08/10/2020)

- Keeping Yourself and Others Safe (06/16/2020) +
- What Are the Symptoms or What if You Are Sick? (06/16/2020) +
- How Will the University Communicate? (06/16/2020) +
- Updating Your Contact Information (06/16/2020) +
- What is Covid-19? (06/16/2020) +
- UMS Forms Fall 2020 Safe Return Planning Committee (04/21/2020) +
- New Community Resource Guide for Adult Learners and Employees (04/13/2020) +
- Summer Sessions Offered On-Line (04/07/2020) +
- IT Resources to Support Distance Instruction (03/27/2020) +
- Group and Gathering Restrictions (03/18/2020) +
- Internet Access (03/16/2020) +
- What Should I Do If I Am Ill? (03/13/2020) +
- Flexible and Non-Punitive Leave Policies Available (03/13/2020) +

Campus-Specific Return Information

