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## COVID-19\_President Friday Futurecast\_February 26, 2021

Joan Ferrini-Mundy

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Matthew Revitt <matthew.revitt@maine.edu>

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## Friday Futurecast — February 26

1 message

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**UMaine President's Office** <umaine.president@maine.edu>  
Reply-To: UMaine President's Office <umaine.president@maine.edu>  
To: UM-EMPLOYEES@lists.maine.edu

Fri, Feb 26, 2021 at 4:31 PM



# Friday Futurecast

## Health and safety update for university community members

Welcome to this week's Friday Futurecast

These updates are archived on the UMaine [Spring '21 website](#). The University of Maine at Machias also has a [Spring '21 website](#).

Message from President Joan Ferrini-Mundy:

Dear members of the UMaine and UMM communities,

Throughout this pandemic, so many members of our UMaine and UMM communities have been at work, nonstop, doing their jobs in addition to the required COVID-19 response measures to help ensure the well-being of our communities, on and off campus. They include the members of our Emergency Operations Center and its COVID-19 Response Team, working tirelessly, often

around the clock to provide health and safety guidance in collaboration with Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and in accord with civil and University of Maine System protocols.

Behind the success of that team are additional dedicated staff members. Among them are our UMaine and UMM custodial staffs that are critical to maintaining our campus health and safety standards. Dining Services team members not only prepare the grab-and-go meals in our dining facilities, but also for residential students in our isolation and quarantine housing. We have staff members doing contact tracing and care management for students and employees who test positive on campus for COVID-19, in addition to the 10 staff and 183 students involved in our asymptomatic testing, this semester at the Collins Center for the Arts and Wells Conference Center, and three staff and four students working in the UMM Clipper Lounge. We have an incredible Northern Light Primary Care team at Cutler Health Center led by alumna Dr. Sarah Stewart and an inspirational health liaison office led by alumnus Dick Young, and at UMM, a valuable resource in student health coordinator Dr. Jordan Porter. A volunteer staff responds to the countless queries to [um.covidtesting@maine.edu](mailto:um.covidtesting@maine.edu) and the COVID information line. The list of unsung heroes goes on. And on.

To our staff members whose leadership has been part of our efforts to be on-site, on campus this academic year, we extend our sincerest thanks.

Our staff, faculty and students have truly come together as caring university communities to meet the challenges of this public health crisis. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joan Ferrini-Mundy

#### **Partnering to address health**

- Governor Mills announced today [that Maine will adopt an age-based approach to expanding vaccine eligibility](#), and that Maine residents age 60 and older will become [eligible for vaccination on March 3](#). The state's COVID-19 vaccination [website](#) has the latest age-eligibility schedule for Maine residents, vaccination sites, FAQs and more. It is an important resource that should be checked often for announcements of exact dates for age eligibility. A University of Maine System news release related to vaccinations is [online](#).
- The [UMaine Counseling Center](#) offers [short videos](#) on mental health topics and tips. It also collaborates with Student Life offices to offer virtual support. Information about those programs is [online](#), including a weekly LGBTQ+ support group in collaboration with the Rainbow Resource Center; a biweekly international support group in collaboration with the Office of International Programs; and a biweekly solidarity meeting in collaboration with the Office of Multicultural Programs.
- In addition to the resources on the UMM Counseling Center [website](#), check out the short videos and articles posted on its [Facebook page](#).

#### **Transparent and continuing communication**

- Helpful reminders are online for participants in Shield T3 saliva PCR testing. They include the importance of hydrating with water on the day of your testing appointment on campus. See [all the guidance](#) critical to providing a successful saliva sample — and a readable test result.
- Reminder: On the [UMaine](#) and [UMM](#) Commencement websites, we are taking suggestions for what we can do, in accordance with safety and health protocols, to make recognition events for graduating students as memorable and meaningful as possible. Current civil and university system guidance prohibits indoor gatherings such as our traditional UMaine Commencement ceremonies that attract 12,000 people to Alford Arena.
- A Virtual Town Hall on Commencement is scheduled for 3 p.m., March 3; this is the [link](#).

#### **In-person, on-campus experiences and other learning modes**

- The [UMM Study Center](#) and the [UMaine Tutor Program](#) offer peer tutoring as well as

NetTutor for online students. At UMM, contact Lori McBrine, [lori.mcbrine@maine.edu](mailto:lori.mcbrine@maine.edu), to connect with a tutor. At UMaine, sign up for small group tutoring by March 26; information is [online](#). Also available on the Tutor Program website are [student resources](#), including study tips.

- Black Bear football is tentatively scheduled to host three games at Alford Stadium in the spring season: March 13 against UAlbany, Villanova on April 3 and New Hampshire on April 17. To comply with state COVID-19 guidelines regarding gathering sizes, no spectators will be permitted inside Alford Stadium on game day. Only personnel deemed essential will be in the stadium during the home contests. A news release is [online](#).
- The 16–2 women’s basketball team is seeded No. 1 in the America East playoffs. The Black Bears, who earned a first-round bye, are slated to host a semifinal at 1 p.m. on March 7. The game will be broadcast on ESPN+ and 96.1 WGUY-FM. More information will be posted on [goblackbears.com](http://goblackbears.com).

#### **Flexibility, responsiveness, empathy, and science**

- UMaine Honors Student Ambassadors Katie Tims and Bailey West are launching the “It’s Personal” personal care items donation campaign to benefit the Black Bear Exchange on campus. The campaign, from March 8 until Maine Day, seeks to foster friendly competition between units and organizations campuswide. For more information or to sign up a unit for the competition, email [bailey.west@maine.edu](mailto:bailey.west@maine.edu) or [kathleen.tims@maine.edu](mailto:kathleen.tims@maine.edu). More information is [online](#).

#### **Continuing our missions for Maine**

- The Human Dimensions of Climate Change Film Series returns this spring with three online film screenings and discussions about the impact of climate change worldwide. All screenings start at 6 p.m. on Zoom. Use this form to [register](#) for: “[Lobster War](#),” March 23, with discussion led by UMaine researcher Joshua Stoll; “[Indigenous Climate Shorts](#),” March 30, with discussion led by UMaine researchers Bridie McGreavy, John Daigle and Tony Sutton; “[Sinking Cities, New York](#),” April 6, with discussion led by Southern Connecticut State University researcher Amanda Bertana. The film series is sponsored by the Anthropology Department, Climate Change Institute, Department of Communication and Journalism, Fogler Library and School of Marine Sciences.
- Manisha Sinha, award-winning author and renowned expert in the history of slavery and abolition, and Civil War Reconstruction, will deliver the virtual 2021 Howard B. Schonberger Peace and Justice Lecture, “The Abolitionist Origins of Reconstruction,” at 5:15 p.m. on March 9. Join via [Zoom](#) with password 391122. More about the lecture is [online](#).