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UMS_Community Guidance_Everyone_What is the status of visitor access and protocols, visitor and event vaccination requirements, pandemic protocols generally, and overall University operations for 2021-2022?

University of Maine System

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Everyone

Together for Maine Plan

- University of Maine System COVID-19 Information
- Voluntary Vaccination Reporting (External Site)
- Dr. Nirav Shah: This Is Our Shot Maine (External Site)

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- [Together for Maine Daily Briefing and COVID-19 Data Update: 11/29/21](#)
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For Everyone

Face covering requirements (10/26/2021) +

What is the status of visitor access and protocols, visitor and event vaccination requirements, pandemic protocols generally, and overall University operations for 2021-2022? (11/9/2021) -

The universities of the University of Maine System have welcomed the university community to campuses across Maine for the 2021-22 academic year. University instruction and operations have continued throughout the pandemic and they are continuing today. This fall, with a vaccination requirement and other COVID-19 protocols in place, the University of Maine System has welcomed back its community in numbers comparable to pre-pandemic days for the first time since March 2020. The University will continue in this way for the spring 2022 semester.

This information is intended for a general audience including potential visitors to a university campus or facility. Students, staff and faculty should refer to other sections of this website for information tailored specifically to students and employees ([student guidance can be found on the for students page](#); [employee guidance can be found on the for employees page](#)).

As of this posting, the University of Maine System provisions regarding its operations and in-person activities are as follows. The University of Maine System will continue to monitor civil authority and public health guidance and will modify its protocols as necessary in response to changes in the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Full Fall Semester Calendar:** The University of Maine System has scheduled a full, typical in-person fall semester for Fall 2021 and for Spring 2022. The fall semester, now in progress, ends Friday, December 10, with exams ending Friday, December 17. Classes for spring begin Monday, January 18, and end April 29, with final exams ending May 6 (except at the law school, where exams end May 12). Please refer to the specific academic calendars as published by each respective University for further information and details.
- Access to campus and university facilities for visitors:** University System campuses, in general, are open. Visitors – along with students, staff, and faculty – are currently required to wear face coverings at all times indoors at this time, regardless of vaccination status. Many events or activities for which visitors would come to campus also will require evidence of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test. For more information about face coverings, vaccination requirements, and other such protocols, please see the further details on this website.
 - Vaccination requirements:**
 - Students:** The University System currently requires students who are on campus in-person to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The details of this requirement for in-person students, including permissible exemptions, are posted on the [Student page of this website](#).
 - Employees:** In-person employees are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 or adhere to alternative COVID-19 protocols. Further information about the requirement for in-person employees, including permissible exemptions and the accompanying collective bargaining agreements, is posted on the [employee section of this website](#).
 - Visitors:** Visitors who are medically able and age eligible are encouraged to be vaccinated. Anyone attending indoor University System events of more than 250 people must provide proof of vaccination or an acceptable negative test to enter. This includes visitors to campus. Requiring evidence of vaccination or a negative test for entry to University System events already is being done on a case-by-case basis across University of Maine System campuses. It is required at all group gathering events of more than 250 people organized by the University System or in University System facilities. Specific requirements for visitors will be posted prominently on the appropriate university website(s) to the extent feasible. To the extent practicable, activity or venue-specific requirements will generally be posted with event notices and promotional materials. Visitors, including those who are not eligible by age to receive a vaccination and those asserting a religious objection or medical contraindication to vaccination, will be allowed to present a negative COVID-19 test instead of proof of vaccination. Visitors with questions or concerns should check in advance with the facility, event or activity organizers regarding any specific protocols for the facility, event or activity of interest.
 - Vaccination for entrance to larger group gatherings:** The University System requires those attending indoor group gatherings of more than 250 people organized by the University System or held in University System facilities to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, if they are able or to have a recent negative test. Details are below.
 - This requirement applies to all persons at applicable gatherings including students, staff, employees and other visitors.
 - The University System may require evidence of vaccination to permit entry. Legitimate, legible, original vaccination cards and physical or electronic copies will be accepted. Individuals may also be asked for identification. For students and employees, the University System is working to provide an electronic clearance tool in connection with the University's COVID-19 protocols that will be accepted in place of other documentation.
 - The proof of vaccination is required to be for a vaccine approved by the FDA or WHO and must show the person had their final dose more than 2 weeks before the group gathering for which the evidence is being presented.
 - The University System may require evidence of a negative test. Evidence that will be accepted includes a negative PCR test or rapid antigen within 72 hours of the event or gathering. Legitimate, legible, original test results and physical or electronic copies will be accepted. For students and employees, the University System is working to provide an electronic clearance tool in connection with the University System's COVID-19 protocols that will be accepted in place of other documentation.
 - The University System may, at its sole discretion, permit individuals who are not age-eligible for vaccination, currently those younger than 12 years old, entrance to applicable gatherings if they wear a face covering and pass a symptom check, except that children younger than two are not required to wear masks. Effective January 4, this age requirement will be updated as follows: The University System may, at its sole discretion, permit individuals who are not age-eligible for vaccination, currently those younger than 5 years old, entrance to applicable gatherings if they wear a face covering and pass a symptom check, except that children younger than two are not required to wear masks.
 - Classes which have more than 250 people in person for the purpose of an academic course are exempt from this requirement.
 - Because of the wide variety of spaces, events, and gatherings at the University System, this requirement may require special adjustment in some additional cases, but the intended outcome will remain that all those present for indoor events of more than 250 persons must present evidence of a COVID-19 vaccination or negative test to gain entrance to that space, activity or gathering.
 - Attempted or actual entry to events for which this requirement is applicable by individuals who do not meet these requirements: or presenting fraudulent information in an attempt to gain entry may result in action by the University System, for instance prohibiting such individuals from further University System gatherings, or other appropriate action.
 - Face coverings:** Face coverings currently are required through at least December 17, 2021, for all persons – students, staff, faculty, visitors and others – when indoors at a University facility. Please see the specific protocol on this website under "Face covering requirements (10/26/2021)."
 - Testing:** The University of Maine System will continue proactive mandatory asymptomatic testing for COVID-19 of its in-person students, staff and faculty during fall 2021. Persons who have verified their fully vaccinated status with the University are in general excused from asymptomatic COVID-19 testing at this time. Students, staff and faculty should refer to their respective sections of this Together for Maine website ([student guidance can be found on the for students page](#); [employee guidance can be found on the for employees page](#)) for information regarding how "fully vaccinated" is defined and how to submit vaccination verification. Testing is not currently provided to visitors except in certain special circumstances.

Quarantine and isolation: In general, quarantine and isolation remain important safety protocols. The University of Maine System will act in keeping with United States Center for Disease Control (US CDC) and Maine public health guidelines requiring quarantine and isolation as applicable and appropriate in our university settings.

Quarantine applies to persons who have been or may have been exposed to COVID-19. This means members of the in-person community who are determined to have experienced a close contact COVID-19 exposure will be required to quarantine for 10 days. An important exception: Asymptomatic and fully-vaccinated students, staff, and faculty who are close contacts are in general exempted from quarantine requirements if they provide verification of their fully vaccinated status to the University and remain symptom-free. These persons are still required to monitor themselves for symptoms and to wear a face covering indoors and outdoors for 14 days after contact. You can provide verification of your vaccination status via the COVID-19 portal.

Isolation applies to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19. Those who test positive for COVID-19 will need to isolate for 10 days from the start of their symptoms or their positive test date, whichever is sooner, and provided the person is no longer symptomatic at the end of the 10 days. Those in isolation should stay home from classes, work, and any public gatherings until it is safe for them to be around others. No students who test positive for COVID-19 are exempt from this isolation period including vaccinated and asymptomatic individuals and those who may test negative during their isolation period.

More information about quarantine and isolation is available on the portions of this Together for Maine website specific to students and employees ([student guidance can be found on the for students page](#); [employee guidance can be found on the for employees page](#)).

 - General group size limits:** There are currently no systemwide limits on group size within the University of Maine System. Individual universities may adopt limits for particular circumstances in consultation with their pandemic response, emergency operations and other campus leadership. These limits may also include limiting the pre-arrival time of attendees at larger events to the time which is necessary to obtain access to the event but not so early as to permit pre-event or parking lot gatherings. The University of Maine System also effective October 15 will require evidence of vaccination status or a negative test for entrance to indoor group gatherings of more than 250 persons.
 - In-person instructional group size limits:** There are currently no systemwide limits regarding in-person class sizes within the University of Maine System. Individual Universities may adopt limits for particular circumstances in consultation with their pandemic response, emergency operations and other campus leadership.
 - Physical distancing:** There are currently no systemwide physical distancing requirements within the University of Maine System. Individual Universities may adopt such requirements for particular circumstances in consultation with their pandemic response, emergency operations and other campus leadership.
 - Community spaces and facilities such as libraries, museums, gyms, retail stores, computer labs, and study halls:** These spaces in general are open and operating. Visitors, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a face covering at all times inside University facilities. Effective October 15 proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 tests resulted within 72 hours prior to entry will be required for group events of more than 250 persons and may also be required at additional times and places, such as for physical fitness facilities. Visitors and other interested persons should check with a particular event or facility prior to visiting to confirm the protocols that may be in place in those specific instances or locations.
 - Childcare centers:** Any childcare facility operated by the University of Maine System, or operating in university facilities follow pandemic protocols applicable to their activities and populations served. Additional information about childcare facilities is available from the respective such facilities operated by various universities.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve rapidly and this guidance is subject to change at any time. Interested individuals and organizations are encouraged to check Together for Maine routinely for updates. Employees, students and visitors are encouraged to check the relevant sections of the website for information particular to them ([student guidance can be found on the for students page](#); [employee guidance can be found on the for employees page](#)).

(Last reviewed/updated: 11/09/2021)

How to replace your COVID-19 vaccination card (07/21/2021) +

How Will the University Communicate? (05/14/2021) +

Updating Your Contact Information (05/14/2021) +

Campus-Specific Return Information

