COVID-19_President Friday Futurecast_December 10, 2021

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Welcome to this week’s Friday Futurecast

These updates are archived on the UMaine COVID-19 website. The University of Maine at Machias also has a COVID-19 website.

Message from President Joan Ferrini-Mundy:

Dear members of the UMaine and UMaine Machias communities,
Thank you, everyone, for all you’ve done this semester for our collective health and safety, and the well-being of our university communities.

Best wishes for a successful and manageable finals week and for a restful and renewing winter break. We look forward to welcoming new and returning students, faculty and staff to campus for the spring semester.

Until then, all the best for the start of the new year. Stay well.

Joan Ferrini-Mundy

Partnering to address health

- Winter break on-campus COVID-19 testing starts Dec. 20.
  - At UMaine, the hours are 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. on Mondays and 6:30 a.m.–5 p.m. on Wednesdays, providing weekly testing for community members required to do so. All UMaine students and employees, regardless of vaccination status, are encouraged to participate in campus-based asymptomatic COVID-19 testing. Please schedule asymptomatic testing appointments via PointnClick and bring your MaineCard to your appointment. More information about campus-based asymptomatic testing is online. Shield T3 self-collected COVID-19 saliva test kits will be used for symptomatic testing on campus. The self-collected test kits do not require an appointment. Pick up and drop off test kits at Estabrooke Hall during the same times and hours noted above. More information about campus-based symptomatic testing is online.
  - At UMaine Machias, Vault self-collected COVID-19 saliva test kits will be available from Student Life and Head of Campus offices during normal business hours. More information is online.

- University-based contact tracing is initiated with every positive COVID-19 case reported in the UMaine community. All positive cases are contacted by a trained, authorized contact tracer. Close contacts are identified based on an interview with the positive case. Fully vaccinated close contacts may be notified by email or by the tracer. Close contacts who are not fully vaccinated will be contacted by a tracer directly. The university’s COVID Operations Group incident commander oversees all COVID-related operations on a 24/7-basis. More information related to being a close contact of someone who has tested positive is online.

Transparent and continuing communication

- All students will be required to come into compliance with the UMS vaccine mandate by Jan. 18. They cannot attend classes or participate in
on-campus activities until they do so. Compliance comprises either the uploading of a vaccination card showing receipt of at least one shot (for those vaccines that are two doses) or a completed official exemption form. All students include those admitted (or re-admitted) for the spring 2022 semester, any continuing/returning students who were not enrolled in fall 2021 but are returning, or any new nondegree students. Advisers and others are currently reaching out to students to emphasize these expectations.

- Reminder: Maintain your commitment to wearing face coverings. Get your COVID-19 booster and flu shot. Continue to practice good hand hygiene and, whenever possible, maintain physical distancing. Community members working on-site are asked to stay home if they are experiencing cold, flu or COVID symptoms.

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

- The UMaine Student Symposium (UMSS) call for proposals opens Jan. 19. The UMSS22 in-person event will be held on campus April 15. Submit abstracts and find more information about the UMSS22 online.

- UMaine Athletics competition schedules for December and into the new year are at goblackbears.com. Men’s ice hockey hosts Union College at 7:30 tonight and at 5 p.m. tomorrow. Men’s and women’s track and field are competing this weekend at Dartmouth. Also on Saturday, men’s basketball is at Quinnipiac for a 2 p.m. game and women’s basketball hosts Rhode Island for a 1 p.m. game on Sunday at the Augusta Civic Center.