



# Coronavirus Community Updates

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## Resources and updates

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## UMaine, UMM community members returning to campus

*Note: These UMaine/UMM FAQs are subject to change at any time. Please check this site regularly for the latest information as it becomes available. The most recent additions and changes are at the top of this page. Last modified May 30, 2020.*

### Will the university be providing face coverings and other personal protective equipment (PPE) for employees while on campus?

Two reusable cloth face coverings will be made available to each UMaine and UMM employee on return to campus. Colleges and departments can use the online [COVID-19 Essential Supplies Request Form](#) to order as-needed supplies, such as hand sanitizer, cloth face coverings, disposable surgical face masks, clear hygiene barriers and social distancing floor signs.

### Are UMaine and UMM employees supposed to continue to work remotely in June?

The University of Maine System has provided [guidance on employees returning to work](#) after June 1. Employees are asked to telecommute or otherwise work remotely from home to the maximum extent possible through June 30, 2020. UMaine Cabinet members and deans will be responsible for requesting specific employees to return to work on campus and for submitting plans to the [UMaine emergency operations center](#).

### For essential employees who have to be on campus at this time, what is the recommendation about using face masks?

Employees are strongly encouraged to wear face masks on campus at all times. However, when social distancing is not possible, the state of Maine requires that cloth face coverings be worn by employees to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. More information is online under the heading: [Should I wear a face covering while working?](#) University of Maine System Safety Management has a [video](#) about protocols for voluntary use of filtering facepieces and cloth face coverings.

### How will you keep essential employees, including Facilities Management staff, safe when all return to campus?

UMaine and UMM will follow state and federal health and safety guidelines. Personal Protective equipment will include face masks, hand sanitizer stations and hygiene barriers. Signage will maintain awareness of the need for frequent handwashing and what to do if you are feeling ill. [UMS Safety Management](#) provides employee specific training videos for use of filtering face pieces and supervisor guidance on application of Hierarchical Control in applying workplace and task modification to lower the risk of viral transmission.

### Is there guidance about reopening labs, studios and other open teaching areas?

Guidance is in development.

### What is the guidance for safe return to work on campus and in UMaine facilities statewide?

Safety Management offers guidance through the portal to University of Maine System employees. Its [website](#) includes factsheets on [office safety guidance](#), [the physical demands of returning to the workplace](#), and [a workspace checklist](#).

### What cleaning protocols are in place for offices, restrooms and high-touch public areas in university buildings on campus and elsewhere in the state?

According to federal health and safety guidance, no special personal protective equipment (PPE) or cleaning processes are needed for cleaning above and beyond normal practices. UMS Safety Management has instituted protocols for use of disinfectants rated to work on coronavirus. Restrooms campus wide are cleaned and disinfected daily. Hand sanitation stations are being added campuswide.

### Will there be COVID-19 testing for members of the UMaine community returning to campus and university facilities off campus?

Currently, UMaine does not offer testing for COVID-19. Testing is offered by Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor for those who are symptomatic, with a physician's order. At this time (May 15, 2020), antigen testing is not readily available in Maine. For those who are asymptomatic, their PCPs or insurance providers can provide guidance on obtaining a COVID antigen test kit.

### Will members of the UMaine and UMM communities who have had coronavirus be required to be tested prior to coming to campus?

This is yet to be determined. Presently, testing individuals is a rapidly evolving environment with unknown variables. The UMaine Science Advisory Board is actively reviewing testing options, availability of both serology and viral testing within the current state guidelines, logistics of large group testing, medical oversight requirements, laboratory resources on and off campus, as well as requirements to process test samples.

### How will the community be notified of a positive case?

Our community health and safety alert process remains the same. Details are [online](#).

### If a residential student who tests positive, what will the steps be for isolating?

UMaine has identified isolation rooms on campus separate from our residential living spaces. The student who is tested for COVID-19 will be requested to contact the UMaine community health and safety alert process [online](#). The student and residential life (for an oncampus quarantine room for 14 days or until test results are laboratory confirmed. The pathway for off campus commuter students tested for COVID-19 will be requested to contact the UMaine community health and safety alert process [online](#). The student will be requested to self quarantine for 14 days or until the test results are laboratory confirmed. In both cases, Maine CDC will be notified of the pending COVID-19 case. An ongoing daily communication will be initiated with the UMaine Lead Physician both cases to monitor the health condition of the student while in quarantine.

The campus isolation rooms are equipped with self-monitoring medical instruments such as thermometer, pulse oximeter as well as hand sanitizer, bathroom supplies, cooking utensils and appliance, and connected with an UMaine Dining meal delivery process. The rooms are set up with laundry service, bed sheets, pillows, blankets and bath towels set. Cutler Health Center provides medical oversight to monitor the ongoing health status of the isolated student.

### Will hygiene barriers be installed on campus?

Hundreds of hygiene barriers are being installed in areas where services are provided and social distancing is not possible, including checkout stations and customer service counters.

### How will UMaine and UMM help maintain social distancing protocols?

Campuswide, there will be hygiene barriers, floor stickers in numerous areas and signage, and common space occupancy capacity guidelines. In situations where the 6 foot social distance is not attainable, employees will be required to wear a face covering, or OSHA approved face mask in specific job roles and tasks.

### Are we going to have in-person classes in the fall?

The University of Maine System has formed a [Fall 2020 Safe Return Planning Committee](#) to develop operational plans and protocols to safely welcome students, employees, and the public back to campus. Continuing to comply with state health guidance, Maine's public universities will be ready to return to face-to-face instruction if group gatherings and interaction are permissible and advisable by the end of August.

### Do members of the UMaine and UMM communities returning to Maine from out of state still have to quarantine for 14 days?

Yes, based on state and federal health and safety guidelines, and University of Maine System protocol.

### What protocols should be followed by employees and students returning to campus and UMaine and UMM facilities from out of state?

Those asymptomatic community members faculty, staff and students who have recently traveled outside of Maine and are returning to campus may be subject to CDC-recommended measures on their return to campus, based on their prior travel (CDC [travel advisories](#)) and out-of-state home locations (regions/states with sustained community transmission). There is sustained transmission of COVID-19 in the U.S. Community members returning from out-of-state travel who are not exhibiting flu or COVID-19 [symptoms](#) are asked to self-quarantine for 14 days prior to returning to their workplace. During self-quarantine, monitor for symptoms and take a daily temperature.

If you develop symptoms, call your health care provider and follow the recommendations. Follow the voluntary UMaine/UMM self-reporting guidance below to assist in planning and guiding your return to work plan.

Older adults and travelers with underlying health issues should avoid situations that put them at increased risk for more severe disease. This entails avoiding crowded places and nonessential travel.

#### Under the guidance of a health care provider

If under any directives from their health care providers or if self-isolation is recommended awaiting COVID-19 laboratory test results, remain at your current home and self-isolate on the recommended CDC time period. Refer to the University of Maine system [workplace policies and guidance](#) for any alternate work-related option available to the faculty or staff. Follow the voluntary UMaine/UMM self-reporting guidance below to assist in planning and guiding your return to work plan.

#### Travel from an area designated as a CDC Level 3

Faculty, staff or students returning from a CDC Level 3-designated area may be required not to report to work and strongly encouraged to adhere to a self-quarantine period of up to 14 days per CDC [guidelines](#). Follow the voluntary UMaine/UMM self-reporting guidance below to assist in planning and guiding your return to work plan. Refer to the University of Maine System [workplace policies and guidance](#) on any alternate work-related option available to the faculty or staff.

#### If displaying symptoms after travel

Should you display symptoms after travel, call your health care provider and follow the recommended self-isolation period while awaiting confirmation of the cause of your symptoms. Follow the voluntary UMaine/UMM self-reporting guidance below to assist in planning and guiding your return to work plan.

Consult with your supervisor upon return about avoiding presence at work and possible work-from-home options. (University of Maine System [workplace policies and guidance](#) )

#### Awaiting COVID-19 test (laboratory) results

If you have been asked to self-isolate by a medical provider in relation to coronavirus and/or are awaiting COVID-19 test results, self-isolate until you receive a negative result. Contact Richard Young (ryoung@maine.edu; 207.356.2518), the confidential University Health Services liaison to help inform the UMaine or UMM communities. Thank you for your understanding of the extraordinary circumstances this situation presents for all of us. Refer to the [University of Maine System guidelines for university travel for business and personal travel](#) for guidance.

An employee or student in need of further information regarding returning to campus from travel outside and/or within the state of Maine should call 207.581.2681.

