Fall '20–Spring '21

Health- and safety-related topics

UMaine and UMM community public health alert system

UMaine science and medicine updates

Plans and resources

UMS Return to Campus Guide for Faculty, Staff, and Student Employees (PDF)

Black Bears Care Plan (PDF)

The Framework for Reopening Maine's Colleges and Universities in Fall 2020 (PDF)

Friday Futurecasts and Updates from Campus Leaders

COVID-19 Community Update from President Ferrini-Mundy – November 7

Published: November 7, 2020

Friday Futurecast – November 6

Published: November 6, 2020

COVID-19 Community Update from President Ferrini-Mundy – November 5

Published: November 6, 2020

Friday Futurecast – October 30

Published: October 30, 2020

Friday Futurecast – October 23

Published: October 23, 2020

Why aren't you requiring COVID-19 testing for all Maine students and employees?

August 31, 2020 | Health and safety

The University of Maine is following science and medical recommendations in requiring testing three cohorts of students — all residential students (in state and out of state, regardless of their state of origin), off-campus out-of-state students, and those in specialty clinical classes and involved in athletics. Students from Maine who have not traveled outside the state in recent weeks are not being tested. As of Aug. 12, the state of Maine has the lowest positivity rate (0.5%) in New England, along with a low infection rate below 1.0 of (.81) COVID-19 statewide. Maine remains one of five states with the lowest number of coronavirus cases, according to the CDC.

Students from Maine and employees are following Maine CDC guidance, including mandates they need to follow regarding travel. University employees are being tested based on Maine CDC guidance and Maine state travel guidance. In addition, asymptomatic testing includes employees who are living and working in university campus housing or engaged in instruction in close active environments, gyms and athletic complexes.

Asymptomatic testing is being monitored and controlled by each state's CDC department as well as federal DHHS. The state of Maine is in the initial stage of bringing access to asymptomatic testing to non-health care workers statewide. With limited testing supply to maintain a robust symptomatic testing capacity nationwide, Maine and the other 49 states are being prudent in allocating asymptomatic testing supplies.

Our testing strategy addresses the highest risk new members of the community, based on current science and medical guidance. This strategy will continue through the fall semester to mitigate the risk of viral spread into the community. We will be testing our cohorts of students in August and a second time 10 days into September. The second testing round is intended to address the known incubation period of the virus to quickly identify positive cases developing in the time since the first baseline testing.

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