

Spring 2021

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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

Friday Futurecast – April 9

Published: April 9, 2021

Friday Futurecast – April 2

Published: April 3, 2021

Friday Futurecast – March 26

Published: March 26, 2021

Friday Futurecast – March 19

Published: March 20, 2021

Community health message – March 15

Published: March 15, 2021



Friday Futurecast – March 5

Health and safety update for university community members

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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,

Our Black Bears and Clippers Care plans have been so important in keeping members of our community as safe and healthy as possible this academic year — no matter where you have been learning and working during this challenging time. We have been focused on wearing face coverings, social distancing, hand washing and testing. And now, thankfully, vaccination.

As we noted last week, Maine has adopted an age-based approach to vaccination eligibility. I hope everyone will continue to monitor the state's COVID-19 vaccination [website](#) for the latest schedule for Maine residents, vaccination sites and information. If you are not in or from Maine, please do the same in your respective states.

Chancellor Dannel Malloy's community message from earlier today about vaccinations is [online](#). This week, Maine aligned its vaccination plan with President Biden's directive to prioritize preK-12 educators and child care workers, regardless of age. More information is [online](#).

I received the first of my two-part COVID-19 vaccination yesterday in Bangor. When I arrived for my appointment that I made online for people ages 60 and older, I saw a number of familiar faces, including some of our students in nursing who have been working throughout the pandemic on the front lines — in surge staffing in nursing homes and hospitals as certified nursing assistants, and in testing and vaccination clinics.

As with COVID-19 testing, vaccinations are an important component of helping ensure your health and safety, and the well-being of your family, friends and community.

Stay well. And find opportunities to engage in the many Women's History Month offerings this month.

Sincerely,

Joan Ferrini-Mundy

Partnering to address health

- The University of Maine System informed employees March 5 that they are eligible for two hours of paid administrative leave time that can be used to get the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Faculty and staff also were informed that UMS managers will help make vaccination a workplace priority and provide the flexibility they need to get vaccinated when it is their turn. Approximately 25% of the System's 4,635 employees are 60 or older and as of March 3, eligible to be vaccinated. If all goes according to plan, almost three-quarters of faculty and staff will be eligible by the end of the semester. UMS is not requiring vaccinations because the COVID-19 vaccines have Emergency Use Authorization status by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. More information is in Chancellor Malloy's community message [online](#).

Transparent and continuing communication

- Reminder: This spring semester, UMaine and UMM will observe four days focused on providing students time for decompression, rest, reflection and recentering. The Reading Days, mini-break and Maine Day, March 23–24, April 15 and April 28, are meant to remain free of new assignments to provide time for students to pursue academic work that is most appropriate for them or to take the time off if that is what they need most. Only a limited number of classes, including clinicals required for licensure, are occurring, based on exemptions requested in the colleges. All community members are encouraged to scale back, and postpone and/or reschedule nonessential meetings on these days. Phase six COVID-19 Shield T3 testing will be held as scheduled; however, those with testing appointments on those four days who are not coming to campus can opt out. UMaine and UMM are open all four days, with regular hours of campus programming, dining, recreation centers and libraries. Our goal is to balance the psychological, academic and social needs of our community in the spring 2021 semester.
- A recording of the March 3 Virtual Town Hall on Commencement is [online](#).

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

- The Pride of Maine Black Bears Marching Band is hosting a series of virtual information sessions for those interested in joining the marching band for the fall 2021 season. [Click here to join](#) the 2 p.m. sessions on March 27 and April 24.
- The UMaine School of Performing Arts's Division of Theatre will present its first performance of the spring season via on-demand video rental, available through March 14. Tickets are available [online](#).
- Darling Marine Center is recruiting undergraduate researchers to contribute to marine and environmental research projects. More information about internships, and summer workshops and courses is [online](#).
- Reminder: The 2021 annual UMaine Student Symposium on April 16 invites UMaine and UMM students to submit their research and creative activity abstracts by March 10. Students' research and creative activities, presented in videos, will be judged by faculty, staff and community sponsors. More information is [online](#).
- UMaine football takes on Delaware at Delaware Stadium at noon tomorrow. Saturday's game can be seen via livestream on [FloFootball](#); the live radio broadcast will be presented locally throughout the [Black Bear Sports Network](#), via the [Tuneln](#) app or online at [GoBlackBears.com](#). Also on Saturday, watch women's swimming at UNH at 1 p.m. on [AE.TV](#). Sunday, it's men's swimming at Providence at noon, and women's basketball playoffs vs. UAlbany at 1 p.m. (watch on [ESPN+](#); listen live [online](#)). Women's soccer is at UNH at 2 p.m.; watch live on [AE.TV](#). In addition, baseball will be in action with doubleheaders on Saturday and Sunday at Merrimack. Times for those games are TBD; check the [website](#) for updates.

Flexibility, responsiveness, empathy, and science

- The deadline to apply for the Bachelor of University Studies program for the 2021 spring semester has been extended to March 15. The flexible degree track allows students to develop a program of study that encompasses their interests, is available part-time, and offers in-person and online instruction. For more information or to apply, visit the program [website](#).
- The UMM fitness center reopened to community members on March 1, with enhanced health and safety guidelines in place. Hours of operation and COVID-related policies are on the [website](#).

Continuing our missions for Maine

- A virtual roundtable, "Women in Leadership and Social Justice: The Importance of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion," will be led by President Ferrini-Mundy at 4 p.m., March 15 as part of UMaine's Women's History Month observance. This is the event [link](#).
- Climate change is the focus of upcoming virtual events offered by the McGillicuddy Humanities Center. "The Art of Climate Change" at 7:30 p.m. March 10 features Maine artists Jill Peltro, a UMaine alumna, and Deirdre Murphy, and Scientific American in-chief Laura Helmuth. The center's [Women and Climate Change series](#), which features 2 p.m. lectures, continues into April.
- President Ferrini-Mundy will sit down with Portland Press Herald CEO and publisher Lisa DeSisto for the March 12 segment of [Like a Boss](#), the live Q&A business event. Registration for the 1 p.m. event is [online](#).

