COVID-19 health and safety guidance

Plans and resources

Friday Futurecasts and Updates from Campus Leaders

Friday Futurecast — December 10
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Friday Futurecast — September 10

Health and safety update for university community members

September 10, 2021 | Friday Futurecasts and Updates from Campus Leaders

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,

In our first three days of phase nine asymptomatic testing at UMaine and UMaine Machias this week, we had more than 470 students and employees participate in on-campus COVID-19 T3 testing — both unvaccinated community members, including those with medical or religious exemptions, who are required to test weekly, and those fully vaccinated and opting in. This testing is crucial to our in-person experience this semester and we appreciate everyone's cooperation. We had a number of walk-ins at our two campus testing sites and we hope that, going forward, all will schedule their appointments using PointNClick.

I encourage you to remain mindful of all the health and safety protocols we have followed throughout the pandemic — wearing face coverings, maintaining social distancing when possible and keeping up good hand hygiene. Most important, however, is vaccination and I encourage you to complete this important task right away if you haven't already done so.

Chancellor Malloy makes a similar case in the "public health is everyone's responsibility" message he shared with the university community today.

Thank you for all you are doing and continuing to do. While cases continue to increase nationwide, in Maine and at our universities due to the spread of the Delta variant, we will do all we can, individually and collectively, to sustain community well-being.

Sincerely,

Joan Ferrini-Mundy

Partnering to address health

- All members of the UMaine and UMaine Machias communities should be self-monitoring daily for symptoms of COVID-19. Anyone with symptoms or who has been exposed to someone with COVID-19, or who has tested positive, should fill out the self-reporting form, remain off campus and contact their primary care physician for evaluation. Exposure and contact tracing plans have been developed and will be implemented when needed by the case management team. Faculty members who learn of positive cases from their students should remind them to fill out the self-reporting form. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have a fact sheet on proactive steps for stopping the spread of COVID-19, including communicating with your close contacts if you test positive.
- Any vaccinated members of the UMaine and UMaine Machias communities can opt into COVID-19 T3 asymptomatic testing through PointNClick. All community members who are not yet fully vaccinated or students who have a verified exemption and have an in-person presence on the campuses or at a university-affiliated facility/research site are required to schedule their weekly COVID-19 testing, which is offered through Dec. 14. The UMaine testing location is the ballroom on the first floor of Estabrooke Hall; at UMaine Machias, it is the Clipper Lounge in Sennett Hall. T3 saliva test results are typically available within 36 hours in PointNClick.
- If you are identified as a close contact to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and if you are fully vaccinated, monitor for symptoms for 14 days and get tested within three to five days of the close contact. You do not need to quarantine as long as you remain asymptomatic. If you are not fully vaccinated, you should get tested, and should quarantine for 10 days, assuming you remain asymptomatic, and monitor your symptoms for another four days. Reminder: a negative test during a quarantine period does not end the need to complete the quarantine period.

Transparent and continuing communication

- The next on-campus public vaccination clinics at UMaine this month are 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Sept. 15 and 22 in the Coe Room, Memorial Union, providing the two-shot Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. More information is online.
- To report concerns about COVID-19 health and safety compliance in our university communities, please use this online form.

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

- The UMaine Machias annual Welcome Back Fair featuring student clubs and organizations will be from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Sept. 15 in the Reynolds Center. Students will have an opportunity to learn about campus engagement opportunities and resources, enter to win prizes, have a barbecue lunch and more.
- Join the International Coffee Hour, offered by the International Student Association and Office of International Programs, from 4–5 p.m. every Friday (except breaks) in the North Pod, Memorial Union..
- UMaine Athletics is back in action on Saturday when the men's and women's cross country teams participate in the Dartmouth Sanchez Invitational. Field hockey is looking for its second straight victory when it meets No. 23 Kent State on Saturday in a neutral site game held in Evanston, Illinois. Football will square off against No. 3 James Madison on Saturday in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The 4 p.m. football game will be livestreamed on FloSports and heard across the Black Bear Sports Network. On Sunday, the women's soccer team hosts Marist at 1 p.m. at Mahaney Diamond. The soccer game will be broadcast live on ESPN+. Field hockey closes out the weekend when it takes on No. 5 Northwestern live at 1 p.m. EST on the Big Ten Network+.

Flexibility, responsiveness, empathy, and science

- The Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL) has a calendar of events with workshops on a range of topics, including inclusion in the classroom to support retention, digital equity and assessment strategies.
- UMaine's First-Year and Transfer programs are a resource for students and their parents, and other university community members. Stop by room 315 in the Memorial Union, call 207.581.1406 or email um.fytc@maine.edu if you have questions or need assistance.
- UMaine Machias has multiple resources available to students. Academic support, including adult/distance learning assistance, is available by contacting Bonnie Fortini, bonnie.fortini@maine.edu. Students requiring assistance with registration or the Navigate app, and those in need of equipment, study groups or a tutor can contact Student Success coordinator Lori McBrine, lori.mcbrine@maine.edu; 207.255.1232. JMG students who wish to stay connected to the program should contact Tara Poole, tara.poole@maine.edu; 207.255.1461. Students who would like to discuss an opportunity to develop and implement cultural activities on campus can contact Jennifer Isherwood, jlshio@maine.edu, in the Native American Student Outreach Office.

Continuing our missions for Maine

- UMaine students in nursing are still actively involved in COVID-19 vaccination clinics, and the School of Nursing is working with the University of Maine System to establish the capacity to provide emergency surge staffing support statewide.
- The Linda G. and Donald N. Zillman Art Museum — University of Maine in Bangor has opened five new galleries and has nine new exhibitions open to the public on Sept. 11. The fall exhibitions feature works from artists from San Francisco, Los Angeles, Boston, Miami and the Czech Republic, including Anne Arnold: The Soul of It; Shona Macdonald: tender land; Open Lens: Photographs from the Collection; Sidney Russell: The Big Stitch; Emily Eveleth: Future Possessive; Roman Franc: Watch the Birdie; Amy Stein: Domesticated; and Inflorescence: Works from the Collection. More information is on the ZAM website.
- The Intermedia Program Visiting Artist Series features the exhibition "The Kneeling Art Photography Project," a statewide exploration of social justice through photography and community action. Eleven photographers in the state have captured images of Mainers who work to secure justice at the local, national and international levels. Over 100 members of the community have participated in the project; their images and personal statements are on display at IMRC through Sept. 30.