

Returning to UMassD

FALL 2020

RE-OPENING PLAN



UMass | Dartmouth

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Introductory Message

Dear UMass Dartmouth Community,

When we set out to develop our fall re-opening plan in April, we started by establishing several guiding principles, the most important of which were to protect the health and safety of our community and to ensure that students can progress towards their educational goals. Balancing those vital interests, we developed a plan that is comprehensive, innovative, and flexible, and we have adjusted as necessary as we learned more about COVID-19. On August 10, worsening conditions within Massachusetts and across the country have required us to adjust once again.

Although most elements of this plan will remain, there are two significant changes. All lecture-style instruction will move to a fully remote modality while labs, studios, clinicals, and other instruction that require on-campus facilities will remain on campus. In addition, the number of residential students will be further reduced.

The decision to limit the use of physical instructional spaces was driven by a need to reduce the number of people on campus. The decision was not made lightly, and we recognize it will have a disparate impact on different members of the campus community. To minimize this impact, in determining residential status, we will prioritize those students who are required to travel the greatest distance to participate in required on-campus instruction, as well as students who, due to personal circumstances, rely upon on-campus housing, dining, technology, and other support services. If a student was previously confirmed to live in a residence hall this fall, VC Shannon and Student Affairs will provide further information on this process later today.

Although some campus facilities will be available to non-residential students, these facilities will operate at very limited capacity, and in certain cases, access may be restricted. This further de-densifying of the campus is necessary to ensure the safety of our students, faculty, and staff. Please note that on-campus research activity will continue unchanged per established safety protocols.

Our experience in the spring made it clear that the impact of a remote learning environment can create hardships for our students who do not have access to a conducive living/learning environment and/or technology. UMass Dartmouth is committed to supporting Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) members of our campus community who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19. In the coming days, we will be working with our Deans, Department Chairs, faculty, and staff in the Division of Student Affairs to provide support for our students.

For those individuals who will be on campus, we will utilize strict testing, quarantine, and isolation protocols, as well as the now-familiar requirements for face coverings, social distancing, and daily personal health assessments. As always, we will monitor conditions and

follow the guidance of the CDC, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and local public health officials in determining whether additional adjustments are necessary.

I want to thank everyone, and especially the members of the various Pandemic Emergency Response Teams (PERT) who created a comprehensive and innovative plan to resume face-to-face learning. Overcoming the challenges brought about by COVID-19 has highlighted our resiliency, and I do not doubt that this experience will make us better in the future. For many, including myself, the pandemic has served to remind us of the importance of our mission and our ability to make a difference in the world.

To our students, fall 2020 at UMass Dartmouth will be different from what you might have expected, but please be assured that the education we are offering remains excellent and that faculty, administration, and staff are committed to helping you achieve the goals you have set for yourselves. Although many of your classes and much of your campus experiences may be remote this fall, faculty and staff will continue to support you academically and emotionally, while the University will continue to keep all members of our community healthy and safe.

Thank you for your continued patience, cooperation, and hard work as we continue to prepare for the fall semester and advance our educational mission during these trying times.

Sincerely,

Mark Preble
Chief Operating Officer and Acting Chancellor

Planning Process

On June 10, 2020, UMass Dartmouth formally announced the creation of an overarching Pandemic Emergency Response Team (PERT). PERT is a collaborative effort of students, faculty, staff, and administrators to help the University address the immediate needs of the community and maintain the continuity of its critical mission of education.

PERT has been configured into ten planning groups that span the workings of every area of campus and bring multiple forms of expertise and skills to help campus re-open safely. Each group has submitted a detailed report on their specific area, which was used to create UMass Dartmouth's official re-opening plan. Those plans and other related documents are available on our [Fall Planning 2020 Website](#) and individual group plans can be found below.

The groups are:

- [Onsite Learning with Social Distancing](#)
- [Lab and Research](#)
- [Online and Blended Learning](#)
- [Graduate and Law](#)
- [Facility Preparation and Supplies](#)
- [Daily Operations](#)
- [Residence Halls](#)
- [Dining Services](#)
- [Pre-Opening Programs](#)
- [Events and Athletics](#)

Please note that PERT and its committees remain in place and regularly evaluate issues as they arise and recommend adjustments to this plan as necessary.

The University received hundreds of comments from members of our campus community on the PERT committee reports that were used to help construct this plan.

Health & Safety

In each functional area of UMass Dartmouth, health and safety remain the top priority. Throughout the entire COVID-19 pandemic, the University has followed the science as well as the guidance of the CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health and will continue to do so in the future. All efforts are aimed at mitigating the risk of infection while on campus and the potential for spread within our community. Every member of UMass Dartmouth must abide by public health and campus guidelines to ensure the safety of the entire campus community.

- UMass Dartmouth is using all available methods of communication to promote the necessary safety precautions to inform the community.
- All students, faculty, and staff are required to sign the *UMassD Shared Responsibility Compact* that confirms each member of our community's commitment to all UMass Dartmouth required safety practices.
- Face coverings are required in all public places on campus unless a medical exemption is obtained.
- The University has developed a robust asymptomatic surveillance-testing contact tracing program for the fall semester.
- Areas of campus that contain a high volume of personal interaction are outfitted with transparent barriers.
- Increased and enhanced cleaning is occurring in all campus buildings, especially high traffic areas. Our Facilities team use a specific protocol if an individual who has been on campus reports being sick or tests positive for COVID-19.
- Necessary sanitation supplies are provided across campus.
- Occupancy requirements in all areas are continually monitored and updated as needed to meet distancing requirements per CDC and Massachusetts guidelines.
- All meetings and gatherings, if appropriate, should continue to take place over video chat.

Please note that UMass Dartmouth is working with students, faculty, and staff who have self-identified as at-risk for severe illness to provide remote learning, teaching, and working opportunities. The University is also working with those who have childcare, homeschooling, or other life responsibilities that affect their ability to come to campus.

Personal Responsibility

A major aspect of stopping the spread of COVID-19 and the associated risks of contracting the virus comes down to personal responsibility. Every member of our community must do their part to protect one another, including:

- Mandatory daily symptom checking using the UMassD Student COVID-19 Daily Self Checklist or Employee COVID-19 Daily Self Checklist **before** coming to campus or attending classes.
- Students can complete their daily checklist within the Health Services portal.
- Staying home or isolated if you feel sick or exhibit known COVID-19 symptoms.

- Using appropriate face coverings in all public places on campus unless a medical exemption is obtained.
- Practicing good personal hygiene including handwashing per [CDC guidelines](#).
- Ensuring that social distancing (at least 6 feet of space between people) is always maintained whenever possible.
- Keeping shared workspaces, living spaces, and equipment clean and clear by wiping down at the beginning and end of each day and removing clutter and unnecessary items from surfaces to allow for additional cleaning each night.

Testing & Contact Tracing

Following updated guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Higher Education Control Plan and the UMass President's Office, UMass Dartmouth has developed a robust asymptomatic surveillance-testing program for the fall semester.

All UMass Dartmouth residential students and commuter students and faculty that visit campus regularly are tested weekly. All staff who have student-facing positions will also be tested weekly (e.g. the Bursar's Office, Health Services, and Dining Services). The University anticipates it will conduct as many as 2,500 tests on campus every week.

The University has contracted with Clinical Research Sequencing Platform (CRSP), LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Broad Institute, Inc. The vendor will deliver test kits and pick up specimens each day. We anticipate results within 24 - 48 hours of pickup. An on-campus team is currently developing the final testing logistics, including identifying student-facing positions, testing locations, and availability. Please note that test results will be available to the individual, healthcare providers in Health Services, and reported directly to the Department of Public Health. All these systems and procedures are fully HIPAA/FERPA compliant.

Any faculty, staff, or student who tests positive for COVID-19 will be required to self-isolate—even if they are asymptomatic—and will be required to follow the instructions of Health Services, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and the Local Board of Health. Contact tracing will be done by the Local Board of Health in collaboration with Health Services and the Community Tracing Collaborative. Any faculty, staff, or student who is identified as a close contact will be required to quarantine for 14 days and referred for testing. A close contact is any individual within 6 feet of a laboratory-confirmed or probable COVID-19 patient for at least 15 minutes.

For more information on testing, please visit our [COVID-19 Testing website](#).

Each department, especially those that interact with students often, are required to keep a daily occupancy log. This log should have name and contact info for anyone presenting to the department. The log should be kept for three weeks to assist with contact tracing. It is vitally important that all faculty, staff, and students who are included in an identified population cooperate with all instructions. This will include signing an informed consent form and

providing the demographic and personal information that is required for testing and contact tracing.

Quarantine & Isolation

During confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19, quarantine and isolation can help reduce the spread within the community. It is important to know the difference between the two tactics. According to the CDC, **quarantine** is the act of separating and/or restricting the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick (lasts 14 days). **Isolation** is the separating of sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick (lasts until you have 3 days with no fever and respiratory symptoms have improved and 10 days since symptoms first appeared). Quarantine and isolation will continue until advised by a healthcare provider or the local board of health.

- The University has specific residence halls and rooms on campus to allow individuals to quarantine and/or isolate should they be required.
- Both on-campus and off-campus students should have a plan for the possibility that they need to quarantine or isolate. This includes, if possible, returning to their primary place of residence as well as items necessary for a prolonged period of restricted movement.
- All students who are in quarantine or isolation on campus will be fully supported including dining services, counseling, health services, and academic advising.
- Off-campus students are not allowed to quarantine or isolate themselves on campus.
- For off-campus students, faculty, and staff, please review [CDC guidelines](#) for quarantine and isolation.
- The local boards of health have the legal authority to require an individual to isolate or quarantine.

Academics

UMass Dartmouth's priority is to provide graduate and undergraduate students with a high-quality educational experience that enables them to continue to make progress towards their degree with the least amount of disruptions. In addition to an engaging learning environment, UMass Dartmouth is committed to providing advising and the academic support necessary to facilitate students' academic success.

- All lecture-style courses are offered in a fully remote modality.
- Labs, studios, clinicals, and other instruction that require on-campus facilities are offered face-to-face.
- There are no date changes to the [UMass Dartmouth academic calendar](#) or [UMass Law academic calendar](#) for the fall semester.
- Beginning on November 30, 2020, all instructional activities, including final exams, will be offered remotely to minimize the risk of any potential outbreak caused by students and faculty returning from travel.
- The Library and other student support services are open until December 16, 2020.
- Necessary health and safety supplies are provided in all classrooms.
- Classrooms, laboratories, studios, and clinicals have new procedures, including:
 - Reconfigured furniture layout where appropriate
 - Limited class sizes
 - Mandatory face coverings
 - Eating and drinking prohibited
- Students should work with their professional academic advisors to determine a schedule that will allow them to make academic progress.
- Student academic support services are available to students via various modalities. Limited face-to-face advising will be available. Students should use remote advising options.

Research

UMass Dartmouth has developed all procedures to comply with the Massachusetts Safety Standards for Laboratories to enable activities that are currently allowed by the State Mandatory Safety Standards for Workplaces.

- Only labs that have a safe operations plan that includes detailed protocols that comply with the Massachusetts Mandatory Safety Standards for Workplaces requirements and has been approved by the Chief Research Officer may perform on-campus research. Copies of specific lab safety protocols are available.
- Only work that requires the use of on-campus facilities can be performed on-campus.
- On-campus time will be kept to a minimum, with staggered schedules of necessary lab staff.
- All workplaces and equipment that are used must be sanitized by the person working at the end of each workday. Training and sanitization products are provided.
- A logbook of lab sanitization activity must be kept and maintained in each lab area.
- All trash must be bagged, sealed, and placed outside lab entrance for daily collection.
- If biohazardous materials boxes need to be removed, investigators should contact Environmental Health and Safety.
- If gloves are worn, they must be discarded every time someone leaves a lab space (unless carrying chemicals) and not re-used.

Students

Protecting the health and safety of students while enabling them to continue progress towards their educational goals is the most important part of the fall 2020 planning efforts. UMass Dartmouth is committed to supporting Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) members of our campus community who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19. This includes counseling, academic advising, and all necessary support services.

- Students must adhere to all safety and wellbeing protocols and are required to complete the *UMassD Shared Responsibility Compact*. This virtual form confirms our community's commitment to all UMass Dartmouth required safety practices.
- If a positive COVID-19 case is detected and contact tracing identifies an individual as a close contact, that person must quarantine and be tested for COVID-19. A close contact is any individual within 6 feet of a laboratory-confirmed or probable COVID-19 patient for at least 15 minutes.
- Residential students are strongly discouraged to travel away from the immediate campus area unless necessary for work and/or emergencies.
- If a student is identified through contact tracing or tests positive, they will be required to quarantine or isolate.
- Compliance with these requirements is a condition for returning to and remaining on campus.
- Student academic support services, including advising, tutoring, writing support, etc., are available to students via various modalities. Limited face-to-face advising is available by appointment. Students should continue to use remote advising options.
- Other support services, including the Counseling Center, the Student Health Center, Access and Success, Career Center and others are available via virtual and limited face-to-face appointments. If you need assistance, please [utilize this form](#).

Residential Life

Due to rising COVID-19 rates within Massachusetts and across the country, or the fall semester, the number of residential students will be greatly reduced. In determining residential status, the University will prioritize those students who are required to travel the greatest distance to participate in required on-campus instruction, as well as students who, due to personal circumstances, rely upon on-campus housing, dining, technology, and other support services.

- There are **no guests allowed** in residence halls for at least the first two weeks of the semester, based on public health guidance.
- Shared spaces including lounges, laundry rooms, or bathrooms have strict occupancy limits. Most of our students who are approved to live on campus have access to a private bathroom. Students who utilize a shared bathroom facility have a specific bathroom and shower assigned for their use, which would facilitate contact tracing in the event of a reported case of COVID-19.
- The pedestrian flow has changed to minimize contact, with students required to follow directives for walkways, stairwells, and lounges, and to abide by occupancy restrictions on elevators.
- Staff continue to assist students but only meet face-to-face with individuals or small groups. Virtual contact is encouraged.
- For those physically able, the use of stairs is encouraged.
- Residence halls are be open to resident students for the duration of the fall semester, including Thanksgiving break this year.
- Those students who choose to leave campus for Thanksgiving break and travel to states other than lower-risk states including Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, New York, and New Jersey are expected **to quarantine for 14 days upon return to campus**, per latest Massachusetts policy. All educational programming will be delivered remotely after Thanksgiving, at which time all students who leave campus are encouraged to remain off-campus for the duration of the fall semester.
- Students that need to continue living in residence halls beyond Thanksgiving will be accommodated. Such students should submit their requests to Housing and Residential Education.
- Students are allowed to leave their belongings in their individual rooms over the extended winter break.

Housing Assignments

- Housing and Residential Education have utilized our existing housing stock to accommodate all residential students even if we are required to move to mostly single occupancy rooms.
- Housing contracts have been updated to reflect potential outcomes for repeated non-compliance with housing policies and procedures associated with COVID-19 risk reduction.

- Housing and Residential Education have communicated specific timelines and deadlines for how students who identify as high-risk may self-identify to ask for new/different housing assignments.
- Housing and Residential Education will also communicate with students who have already selected housing for the Academic Year 2020-2021 to either confirm they wish to remain in their housing assignment and are willing to comply with requirements for ‘family/neighborhood housing assignments’ or they wish to select a new, single occupancy housing assignment.

Move-In

Move-in will require necessary social distancing safety measures.

- Anyone arriving or returning to Massachusetts **must** quarantine for 14 days unless they:
 - are coming from a lower-risk state, which currently includes Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, or Vermont, **or**
 - can produce, on request, proof of negative viral RT-PCR SARSCoV2 test result from a test administered on a sample within 72 hours before arrival in Massachusetts, **or**
 - meet the exemption criteria.
- Additionally, travelers **must** fill out the Massachusetts Travel Form. This simple form will help contact tracing efforts in the event you or a close contact contracts COVID-19.
- The University has dedicated spaces in residence halls available for residential students to self-quarantine. The earliest date available to begin quarantine on campus for travel purposes will be Sunday, August 16. The nightly charge for housing before students’ formally designated arrival date is \$31/day and will be billed to the student’s account. If you need to arrive early to self-quarantine, please contact Housing & Residential Education at 508.999.8140 or housing@umassd.edu.
- Students will have a limited period to move-in and are encouraged to pack lightly.
- Students are allowed one person to assist with move-in, who will be logged by Housing and Residential Education staff. Students and their one helper must complete a COVID-19 symptoms checklist before entering the residence hall.
- All participants are required to wear a face covering and gloves during move-in.
- A contactless move-in process will be facilitated to the greatest extent possible. A limited number of staff members will be available to help.
- **Law students** have assigned time slots to move in on August 15 or 16.
- **First-year students** have assigned time slots to move in on August 29 or 30.
- **Transfer students** have assigned time slots to move in on August 30 or 31.
- **Returning students** have assigned time slots to move in on August 31 or September 1.
- Students are required to bring a personal digital thermometer and other common medical items that can be found on the Health Services website.

Dining Services

Dining Services will remain open with modified capacity and operational protocols to ensure safety for students, faculty, and staff. Students on meal plans will be able to select from robust offerings via a comprehensive grab and go program. More details will be forthcoming, please visit the [Dining Services website](#) for updates.

Tuition & Financial Aid

The cost of a UMass Dartmouth education includes tuition and required fees, with additional room and board charges for students who live on campus. Tuition and fees are set by the UMass Board of Trustees. There is a tuition freeze for in-state undergraduate students for Academic Year 2020-2021.

Tuition costs for fall 2020 are not differentiated based on the mode of instruction. Courses offered remotely are of the same rigor and quality, taught by the same outstanding UMass Dartmouth faculty. The cost to provide instruction does not change based on the mode of instruction. In some cases, the cost of providing remote instruction is higher than in person because of the technological resources required. Students are provided the same resources and support services, such as the Academic Resource Center and academic advising, tutoring, library, language labs, writing, and technology supports regardless of modality.

Financial aid awards are posted on a student's COIN account. Students should monitor their COIN "To Do" list to make sure all required tasks are completed. Students experiencing financial hardship should contact [Financial Aid Services](#).

Additional information regarding tuition and fees is available by visiting the [Undergraduate Admissions website](#).

Employees

All faculty and staff are required to view the training video that can be found on the [Human Resources website](#). Please also review the [Phase 1 Returning to Work Guide](#) and the [Phase 2 and Phase 3 Returning to Work Guide](#).

Employees must also complete the *UMassD Shared Responsibility Compact*. This virtual form will confirm our community's commitment to all UMass Dartmouth required safety practices.

Further information can be found on the [employee portal](#).

Events & Athletics

All events, athletic contests, and student activities will adhere to the latest CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health recommendations and Commonwealth requirements.

Events

- Meetings and gatherings should be arranged via teleconferencing whenever possible.
- For those few instances when an in-person meeting or gathering of five (5) or more people is necessary, the meeting must be approved in advance by a dean or division head.
- UMass Dartmouth will **not** be hosting events that are open to external visitors in Fall 2020.
- People who are not students, faculty or staff at UMass Dartmouth may only enter UMass Dartmouth facilities if arrangements have been made in advance and their visit has been approved by a Dean or division head at UMass Dartmouth. Generally, approval will only be given to single individuals or small groups who are on-campus to perform specific tasks, and to people contracted for services by UMass Dartmouth.
- Campus tours for prospective students and families are allowed provided all visitors have registered in advance.
- Parents and family members of residential students who wish to bring something to or visit their student are welcome to do so; however, drop offs should occur in parking lots or turn arounds (spaces outside of the residence halls) and visits are encouraged to be conducted outside, adhering to social distancing guidelines.
- No visitors will be permitted in our residence halls for at least the first two weeks of the semester, including family members following the initial, assigned move-in window.
- Student activities are limited to UMass Dartmouth students only.

Athletics

- On July 16, the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference suspended the fall 2020 football season for UMass Dartmouth. On July 28, the Little East Conference announced it would not hold sporting competitions or championships for the fall 2020 semester. The University will also not sponsor any non-conference competition.
- Unfortunately, this means all Corsair fall and winter athletic programs will be suspended through December 31, 2020.
- Athletics & Recreation is planning to open the Fitness Center with reduced occupancy and increased cleaning protocols for students living on campus. For more information, please visit the [Fitness Center website](#).

Resources & Contacts

- [The Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#)
- [Governor Baker's Plan for Reopening Massachusetts](#)
- [Returning to UMassD Informational Website](#)
- [PERT Fall Planning Website](#)
- [Student Affairs Department Directory](#)
- Human Resources – 508.999.8060 or humanresources@umassd.edu
- On-Campus Emergency – UMassD Police – x9191 or 508.999.9191
- Counseling Center – 508.999.8648
- Health Services – 508.999.8982