UMass Dartmouth

SPRING 2022
SEMESTER PLAN
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Key Assumptions for Spring 2022 Planning

1. No de-densification or social distancing is required.
2. A requirement for the use of masks indoors will depend on public health conditions on campus and in the region, and the necessity for such a requirement will be continually evaluated.
3. All students and employees are fully vaccinated or have an approved exemption.
4. Physical barriers are not required for customer-facing operations.
5. Individuals exempt from the vaccination requirement will be subject to a weekly testing protocol. Asymptomatic testing will not be required for fully vaccinated individuals.
6. Residential halls will not be required to be single occupancy.
7. Dining Services will be fully operational and will abide by the latest campus protocols and public health guidance.
8. Athletics will practice and compete and will abide by the latest campus protocols, public health guidance, and respective athletic organization recommendations.

Planning Process

In the summer of 2020, UMass Dartmouth formally announced the creation of an overarching Pandemic Emergency Response Team (PERT). PERT is a collaborative effort of students, faculty, and staff 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 operate safely. Each group has submitted a detailed report on their specific area, which was used to create UMass Dartmouth’s prior semester planning documents. The PERT groups have continued to work towards the University’s goal of returning to normal operations.

The PERT 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

The University has an Implementation Team made up of students, faculty, and staff that meet weekly to address issues as they arise and recommend adjustments to this plan and daily operations, as necessary. In addition, the Health and Safety Committee is a joint Labor-Management Committee established and dedicated to working in collaboration to identify,
bargain, and resolve, to the best of its ability, the health and safety issues caused by the COVID-
19 pandemic and its impact on the campus, students, staff, and the SouthCoast region. The
Committee is comprised of the UMass Dartmouth Administrative Team and members of the
UMASS Dartmouth Unions United.

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 as conditions improve due to vaccinations.

- All students, faculty, and staff who wish to live, learn, or physically come to campus for
  the Spring 2022 semester are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 unless an
  exemption waiver is received.
- All students, faculty, staff, and visitors (even if vaccinated) must wear masks in public
  areas indoors on campus. The University will monitor public health conditions on
  campus and in our region and will continually evaluate whether it is necessary to
  continue this indoor mask requirement.
- Massachusetts guidance requires face coverings to be worn in some settings despite
  vaccination status or the University’s temporary mask requirement, such as public
  transportation, health care, and childcare settings. Students, faculty, and staff will still
  be required to wear face coverings while using campus shuttles, visiting Health Services,
  or the Counseling Center.
- Individuals exempt from the vaccination requirement are subject to a weekly testing
  protocol. Asymptomatic testing is not required for students, staff, or faculty who have
  been vaccinated.
- A limited amount of on-campus residential space has been reserved for quarantine and
  isolation.
- UMass Dartmouth is using all available methods of communication to promote the
  necessary safety precautions to inform the community.

Vaccinations
Throughout the pandemic, the University has followed the science, which led to health and
safety protocols that protected our campus. The science is clear that vaccination is the best way
to stop COVID-19 from spreading and our best way to continue protecting each other’s
wellbeing.

- All students, faculty, and staff who wish to live, learn, or physically come to campus for
  the Spring 2022 Semester are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 unless an
  exemption waiver is received.
- This decision was made on the basis of expected additional state, federal and legal
guidance and vaccine availability. The University will accommodate medical, religious, or
disability exemptions pursuant to state and federal law. Evidence to date concerning the
present and expected approval status and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines supports the university’s position.

- All members of the campus community can upload their proof of vaccination to the Health Services Portal. Individuals claiming an exemption to the requirement must submit either a written request for exemption upon religious grounds or medical exemption documentation from a healthcare provider.
- Please visit VaxFinder.mass.gov to find an appointment at retail pharmacies and community health centers near you.
- The University will continue its public health messaging campaigns to remind and educate students, faculty, and staff about the importance of vaccination.
- Individuals exempt from the vaccination requirement are subject to a weekly testing protocol.
- Fully vaccinated is defined as two weeks after a second dose in the two-dose vaccine or two weeks following a single-dose vaccine.
- The University strongly encourages and expects eligible individuals to receive their COVID-19 vaccine booster shot.

Vaccine Booster Shots
On November 18, 2021, the Baker Administration announced all Massachusetts residents ages 18 and over are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 booster vaccine six months after getting their second Pfizer or Moderna shots, or two months after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The University strongly encourages and expects eligible individuals to receive their vaccine booster shot.

According to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, COVID-19 vaccines are very effective in lowering the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, but this protection may diminish over time. Boosters keep the vaccines effective for longer. Individuals can mix and match COVID-19 vaccines—there is no requirement to get the same vaccine brand for a booster as the original COVID-19 vaccination.

Testing
During the 2020-21 Academic Year, UMass Dartmouth utilized a robust asymptomatic surveillance-testing program where thousands of students, faculty, and staff engaged with testing each week. All residential students and commuter students that visit campus regularly were required to test weekly. The Testing Center administered more than 39,000 tests during the 2020-21 Academic Year. During the Fall 2021 semester, the testing center administered more than 3,000 tests to individuals exempt from the vaccination requirement and students who are symptomatic or have a known exposure.

Individuals exempt from the vaccination requirement are subject to a weekly testing protocol and mask requirement. Asymptomatic testing will not be required for students, faculty, or staff who have been vaccinated. Health Services is also testing students who are symptomatic or have a known exposure.
The latest testing data can be accessed via the COVID-19 Testing Data website.

COVID-19 Campus Conditions Matrix
In consultation with the Director of Health Services and the appropriate PERT subcommittee, the university developed a COVID-19 campus conditions matrix, that factors in both regional metrics (such as Bristol County positive test rates) along with campus-based factors (such as campus-based vaccination rates). The campus conditions matrix informs the campus response to the evolving conditions of the pandemic. Based on several variables, the Matrix has four levels that increase in severity of conditions: Green, Yellow, Orange, and Red. Visit the COVID-19 Campus Conditions Matrix website to learn more.

Classroom Air Quality & Airflow
During the summer of 2021 and the fall semester, the University brought in professional airflow consultants to test classroom spaces to ensure that systems are providing at least the CDC-recommended 4.0 complete air exchanges per hour (ACH). Their report showed that most classrooms meet or substantially exceed these standards. The few classrooms that were slightly under 4.0 ACH, are being upgraded. The latest results can be viewed on the Classroom Air Quality and Airflow website.

In addition, air filters were upgraded from MERV-8 to MERV-13 in most academic buildings and current course enrollments scheduled in classrooms have been systematically checked to ensure each is receiving the recommended percentage of fresh air. Where necessary, fresh air dampers have been opened to increase the percentage of outdoor fresh airflow to individual classrooms. The amount of fresh air that HVAC systems bring into each space is being calibrated to ensure standards set by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers are met or exceeded.

Academics
UMass Dartmouth has resumed on-campus, in-person classes for all applicable students for the Spring 2022 semester. There are no changes to the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar.

In-person Teaching and Learning
Classrooms, labs, studios, and clinicals will return to pre-pandemic student and faculty density and will abide by the latest campus protocols and public health guidance. The University will continuously monitor federal, and state public health guidance, and classroom configurations and protocols will be adapted as necessary and communicated with the campus community. With more than a year of remote learning experience for our community, should pandemic conditions worsen, the University is prepared for a switch to remote instruction.
Selected Remote Teaching and Learning Opportunities

The final schedule for fully online courses being offered in the Spring 2022 semester are listed in COIN.

Academic Advising

Academic advising will return to pre-pandemic operations and will abide by the latest campus protocols and public health guidance. Throughout the pandemic, virtual meeting options and technologies have provided increased flexibility for students, faculty, and staff. These practices are encouraged to continue to provide greater access to student support.

Library Access

The Claire T. Carney Library will be open during normal hours throughout the Spring 2022 semester. Protocols within the Library regarding social distancing, use of face coverings, eating and drinking, and sanitation measures will abide by the latest campus protocols and public health guidance.

Research

All research lab procedures at UMass Dartmouth must comply with the Massachusetts Safety Standards for Laboratories to enable activities that are currently allowed by the State Mandatory Safety Standards for Workplaces. Protocols within labs regarding social distancing, use of face coverings, eating and drinking, and sanitation measures will be adjusted per public health guidance. Researchers must receive approval from the Chief Research Officer to perform on-campus research.

Student Affairs

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

- UMass Dartmouth requires COVID-19 vaccinations for all undergraduate and graduate students who wish to live, learn, or physically come to campus for the Spring 2022 semester.
- This decision was made on the basis of expected additional state, federal and legal guidance and vaccine availability. The University will accommodate medical, religious, or disability exemptions pursuant to state and federal law.
- If a student tests positive for COVID-19, they should immediately isolate themselves, and message Health Services through the secure messaging feature in the Health Services Patient Portal or by calling 508.999.8982 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays.
• Students should notify their professors of the positive test and will be absent from classes until released from isolation. The date of release from isolation will be confirmed by Health Services.
• Students cannot attend in-person classes or any on-campus events or locations until released from isolation.
• The contact tracing process will notify any individuals who meet the definition of “close contact” during the medically relevant window of time.
• If a student lives on campus, the Office of Housing and Residential Education will ensure that they are moved to temporary isolation housing and supported during that time.
• The University has specific residence halls and rooms on campus for required periods of quarantine or isolation for residential students. No visitors or guests are allowed in or around identified quarantine or isolation housing at any time.
• All residential students who are in quarantine or isolation on campus will be fully supported by health services, dining services, and additional offices as needed.
• Off-campus/commuter students are not allowed to quarantine or isolate themselves on campus and are required to comply with Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines for quarantine or isolation.
• Compliance with these requirements is a condition for returning to and remaining on campus.

Additional guidance for students can be accessed via the Student Frequently Asked Questions website.

**Student Support Services**
Student support services will return to pre-pandemic operations and will abide by the latest campus protocols and public health guidance. Throughout the pandemic, virtual meeting options and technologies have provided increased flexibility for students, faculty, and staff and are encouraged to continue. If you need assistance from Student Affairs, please utilize this form.

**Housing & Residential Life**
Residential halls will not be required to be single occupancy and will abide by the latest campus protocols and public health guidance. Public health conditions will determine whether guests, including off-campus guests will be permitted in the residence halls.

**Dining Services**
Dining Services will return to pre-pandemic operations for dine-in and will abide by the latest campus protocols and public health guidance. For more detailed information on changes to the dining experience, please visit the Dining Services website.
Remote/Hybrid Work
During the fall semester, UMass Dartmouth implemented a Hybrid Remote Work Pilot Program, effective October 4, 2021, through June 30, 2022. The pilot program will be in effect for an established period to determine if the hybrid work model will become permanent, be altered or cease.

Events & Conferencing
All event venues, conferences, and student activities will continue to operate in the spring and will abide by the latest campus protocols and public health guidance.

Athletics
Athletics will practice and compete and will abide by the latest campus protocols, public health guidance, and respective athletic organization recommendations.

The Fitness Center with resume pre-pandemic operations. For more information, please visit the Fitness Center website.

University-Travel
Please visit the Domestic & International Travel Information website for updated protocols and policies related to University-travel.