

UMass Dartmouth

SPRING 2023

SEMESTER PLAN



 UMass | Dartmouth

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## 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. The University is also closely monitoring the growing public health concern Monkeypox.

## Mpox

- The University's Health Services team and the Pandemic Emergency Response Team are monitoring the spread of Mpox (formerly known as Monkeypox). The University is in communication with local, state, and federal health officials to receive and share the latest guidance.
- A Health Advisory has been posted, which contains information for the public.
- Information has been provided to the Center for Women, Gender & Sexuality for individuals at increased risk without stigmatizing.
- Clinicians in Health Services have been updated and trained on the latest protocols.
- Various University staff have been given information to disseminate as necessary.
- Planning targeted communications to patients at higher risk without stigmatizing.
- Learn more on our [Mpox Informational website](#).

## Vaccination & Booster Shots

Throughout the pandemic, the University has followed the science and 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 2023 Semester are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 unless an exemption waiver is granted.
- In addition, all students, faculty and staff who wish to live, learn and work on campus in 2023 are strongly recommended to receive a COVID booster when eligible.
- Individuals requesting an exemption to the requirement must submit either a written request for exemption upon religious grounds or medical exemption documentation from a healthcare provider.
- Fully vaccinated is defined as two weeks after a second dose in the two-dose vaccine or two weeks following a single-dose vaccine.

## Testing

- At-home COVID tests are available to students, faculty, and staff.
- Students can pick up tests in Student Affairs, Residential Halls, Health Services, FDUH, CWGS, and SAIL offices. Faculty and staff can pick up tests in Human Resources.
- Health Services is also testing students who are symptomatic or have a known exposure.

## Quarantine & Exposure

- If someone is exposed to COVID-19, regardless of their vaccination status, they do not need to quarantine, but must wear a high-quality mask for 10 days and get tested 5 full days after the exposure (Day 6). Serial testing 48 hours apart is recommended.

## Masks

- Wearing face coverings indoors is optional.
- Face coverings must be worn in Student Health Services and the Counseling Center.

## Wastewater Surveillance Testing

- COVID-19 can be detected in wastewater, and wastewater surveillance serves as an early warning that the virus is spreading in a community. The University will continue to collect wastewater testing data on campus and report findings on the [COVID-19 website](#).

## Guidance on Testing Positive

### Students:

- Immediately isolate yourself for 5 days and wear a medical grade mask for 10 days. You cannot attend in-person classes or any on-campus events until isolation is completed.
- Message Health Services through the [Health Services Patient Portal](#) or by calling 508.910.6652.
- Notify your close contacts that they have been exposed so they can monitor themselves for symptoms and test on Day 6 following exposure. Serial testing is recommended.
- Notify your professors that you have tested positive and will be absent from classes until isolation is completed.
- If after 5 days you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication and your symptoms are improving, or you never had symptoms, you may leave isolation on Day 6 but continue to wear a medical grade mask around others until Day 11.

### *Please note:*

- If you live on campus, the Office of Housing and Residential Education will ensure that you can safely isolate in place or move you to temporary isolation housing. Supports will be provided while you are in isolation.
- If you are a commuter, you cannot isolate on campus and must isolate at home.

### Faculty & Staff:

- Immediately isolate yourself for 5 days and wear a medical grade mask for 10 days.
- Notify your close contacts that they have been exposed so they can monitor themselves for symptoms and test on Day 6 following exposure. Serial testing is recommended.
- Contact [Human Resources](#), and your supervisor/department chair.
- If your job can be performed remotely and you feel able to work, work remotely.
- If your job cannot be performed remotely or you feel too ill to work, use your accrued sick time or the COVID sick leave bank.

- If after 5 days you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication and your symptoms are improving, or you never had symptoms, you may leave isolation on Day 6 but continue to wear a medical grade mask around others until Day 11.
- Contact your healthcare provider if you continue to have symptoms.

*Please note:*

- Information on treatment with Paxlovid for those infected with COVID-19 can be found [here](#).

## Classroom Air Quality & Airflow

- During the 2021-2022 academic year, the University upgraded air filters from MERV-8 to MERV-13. In the handful of modular buildings, which use different HVAC systems where the use of MERV-13 filters are not appropriate, MERV-9 filters were installed. 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 the overwhelming majority of classrooms meet or substantially exceed the CDC standards. The few classrooms that were slightly under 4.0 ACH were investigated to ensure they were working properly.
- The latest results can be viewed on the [COVID-19 website](#).

## Student Support Services

- 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.
- Student support services 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](#).

## International Students

- UMass Dartmouth recognizes the need for flexibility for international students affected by travel restrictions. We are closely monitoring the situation with U.S. consulates abroad. We know that an inability to acquire a visa and other travel restrictions may prevent some students from traveling to campus. If you cannot travel to the U.S. for in-person instruction, contact your academic advisor as soon as possible to determine your courses and academic plan for Fall 2022.

## University-Travel

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