

## Planning Process

On June 10, 2020, Chancellor Johnson 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 is led by a team of Meta-chairs:

- Mohammad Karim – Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor
- Mark Preble – Vice Chancellor for Talent and Chief Diversity Officer
- Daniel Figueroa – President, Graduate Student Senate
- Elizabeth Anusauskas – President, Student Government Association
- Alex Fossel – Treasurer, Student Government Association & Coordinator, Student COVID Planning Group

PERT has been configured into ten planning groups that span the workings of every area of campus and will bring multiple forms of expertise and skills that will help our campus reopen safely. Each group has submitted a detailed report on their specific area, which was used to create UMass Dartmouth's official reopening 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 will remain in place through the fall and will 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 when planning for the fall 2020 semester. 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 will use all available methods of communication to promote the necessary safety precautions so that our community remains well informed of what they must do to help our efforts.
- All students, faculty, and staff are required to complete the *UMassD Shared Responsibility Compact*. This virtual form will confirm 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.
- Areas of campus that contain a high volume of personal interaction will be outfitted with transparent barriers.
- There will be increased and enhanced cleaning in all campus buildings, and especially high traffic areas. Our Facilities team will use a specific protocol if an individual who has been on campus reports being sick or tests positive for COVID-19.
- Necessary sanitation supplies will be provided in all classrooms and common areas.
- Occupancy requirements in all areas will be continually monitored and updated as needed to meet distancing requirements per CDC and Massachusetts guidelines.
- The use of conference rooms is discouraged. All meetings, if appropriate, should continue to take place over Zoom or similar video chat platform.

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 COVID-19 Daily Self Checklist **before** coming to campus or attending classes.
- 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

UMass Dartmouth does not plan to engage in broad surveillance testing of the campus community at this time. Rather, in addition to self-isolation strategies, consistent with the [Interim Considerations](#) for Institutions of Higher Education Administrators for SARS-CoV-2 Testing and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, we will coordinate with Quest Diagnostics or individuals' own health care provider to test students, faculty, and staff for COVID-19 who:

- Exhibit signs or symptoms consistent with COVID-19
- Are asymptomatic, but have had recent known or suspected exposure to SARS-CoV-2

The University will work alongside the local boards of health and other related agencies to help contact tracing efforts and is currently developing additional steps to aid in contact tracing on campus.

#### 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 identified 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 safely 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 a robust learning environment, UMass Dartmouth is committed to providing advising and the academic support necessary to facilitate students' academic success.

- There are no date changes to the academic calendar for the fall semester. There are no date changes to the UMass Law academic calendar for the fall semester as well.
- 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 will remain open until December 16, 2020.
- UMass Dartmouth will offer a combination of **face-to-face**, **blended**, and **remote learning** courses this fall. Students will have the option to take a combination of these modalities.
- **Face-to-face:** students and faculty meet for all scheduled classes in the classroom/lab/studio.
- **Blended:** part of the coursework is completed asynchronously remotely, and another part is completed in a face-to-face setting.
- **Remote learning:** the entire course is conducted using teleconferencing software and other technologies. Classes may be conducted synchronously (where instructor and students meet virtually at set times) or asynchronously (course designed to be delivered virtually and instructor and students connect through online tools when needed or scheduled meetings).
- Necessary sanitation supplies will be provided in all classrooms.
- Classrooms have new procedures, including:
  - Reconfigured furniture layout where appropriate
  - Limited class sizes
  - Mandatory face coverings
  - Eating and drinking prohibited
- Students that choose the remote learning option will 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 will 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 will be provided.
- A logbook of lab sanitization activity must be kept and maintained in each lab area.
- Work on-campus is only allowed on weekdays between the hours of 7 am to 8 pm. Permission to perform work outside those hours must be approved by the Chief Research Officer.
- All trash will be bagged, sealed, and placed outside the 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.

- All students are required to complete the *UMassD Shared Responsibility Compact*. This virtual form will confirm each member of our community's commitment to all UMass Dartmouth required safety practices.
- Students must adhere to all safety and wellbeing protocols.
- 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

Although living on campus will look different, we are committed to providing an experience that builds a sense of belonging within our community. For those students that have underlying health conditions, we discourage living on campus. Residential and commuter students that choose only remote coursework are still being offered a robust curriculum as well as advising and other academic support to facilitate their academic success.

- 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 will have strict occupancy limits. Bathroom accommodations may also have specific assignments for use, and more frequent cleanings. Bathrooms in the Apartments and Dells are still expected to be cleaned by students.
- The pedestrian flow will change to minimize contact, with students required to follow directives for walkways, stairwells, and lounges, and to abide by occupancy restrictions on elevators.
- Staff will continue to assist students but will 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 will be open to 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 Rhode Island, 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 will be 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 via the form that will be sent to University email accounts later in July.
- Students will be allowed to leave their belongings in their individual rooms over the extended winter break.

## Housing Assignments

- Housing and Residential Education will utilize a combination of assignment styles, single rooms, double occupancy rooms, and suites where people are known to each other and are comfortable with the risk of sharing a space. Our existing housing stock will be able to accommodate all residential students even if we are required to move to mostly single occupancy rooms.
- Housing contracts will be updated to reflect potential outcomes for repeated non-compliance with housing policies and procedures associated with COVID-19 risk reduction.
- Housing and Residential Education will communicate specific timelines and deadlines for how students who identify as high-risk may self-identify to ask for new/different housing assignments by July 17.
- 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.

- Students traveling to campus from states other than Rhode Island, 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. **Registration is required for move-in** time slots to ensure social distancing and compliance with public health recommendations. Guidance on sign-up will be sent to students by July 17.
- 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** will be assigned time slots to move in between August 15 and 16.
- **First-year students** will be assigned time slots to move in between August 28 and 30.
- **Transfer students** will be assigned time slots to move in between August 31 and September 1.
- **Returning students** will be assigned time slots to move in between August 31 and 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.

- The following will offer grab-and-go options Dunkin, Wendy's, Birch Grill, Birch Market, Library Café, University Club C Store, and The Grove.
- "The Grove," a new dining commons is opening in September and the Marketplace will remain open to afford social distancing for dining. When weather permits, there will be new outdoor seating areas available.
- For more detailed information on changes to the dining experience, please visit our [Dining Services website](#).

## Employees

All faculty and staff are required to complete the *UMassD Shared Responsibility Compact*. This virtual form will confirm each member of our community's commitment to all UMass Dartmouth required safety practices. For more information on best practices for a safe workplace, please review the [Phase 1 Returning to Work Guide](#) and the [Phase 2 and Phase 3 Returning to Work Guide](#).

## 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. The UMass President recommends a tuition freeze for in-state undergraduate students for Academic Year 2020-2021.

Tuition for fall 2020 is 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](#).

## 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. Currently, state guidance for Phase III allows 25 or fewer people to gather and the University will adhere to these guidelines until they change.

- The use of on-campus facilities is limited to members of the UMass Dartmouth community. The University will not rent indoor or outdoor facilities during that time.
- Whenever possible, student activities should be conducted remotely. When face-to-face events are necessary, strict social distancing practices are required.
- Student activities are limited to UMass Dartmouth students only. No visitors are admitted to on-campus events.
- A decision will be made regarding fall athletics. It is expected that a decision about fall athletics will be made by July 31, 2020.
- Assuming Fall sports are being conducted, there are protocols in place to ensure the safety of all involved:
  - Each team has submitted detailed plans on how practices and games are conducted.
  - All practices are closed to the public. Families can attend games, but reservations will need to be made in advance to ensure proper social distancing.
  - [Launch Athletics Report](#).

## 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](mailto:humanresources@umassd.edu)
- On-Campus Emergency – UMassD Police – x9191 or 508.999.9191
- Counseling Center – 508.999.8648
- Health Services – 508.999.8982