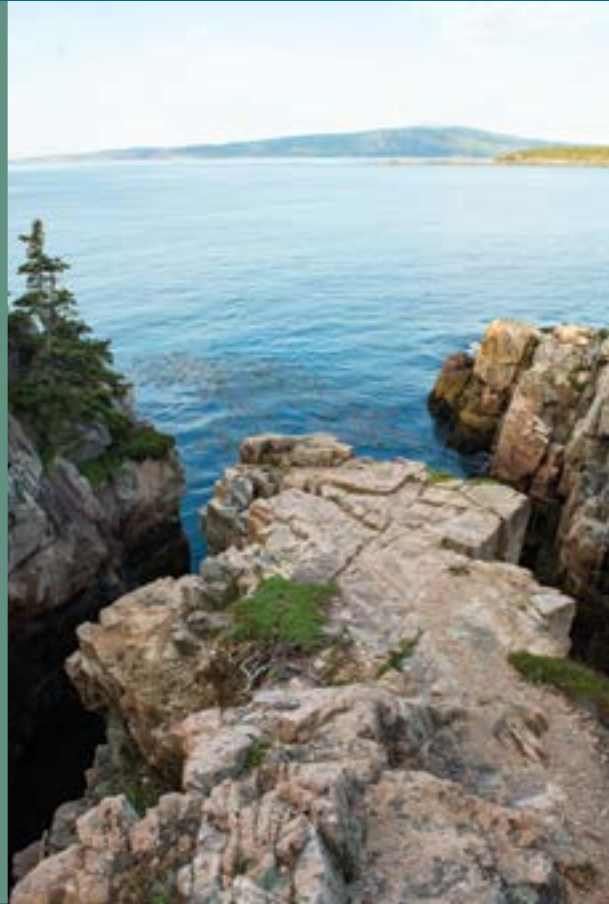




The University of Maine System's Safe Return and Learning Principles



UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT AUGUSTA • UNIVERSITY OF MAINE • UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT MACHIAS • UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT FARMINGTON
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT FORT KENT • UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT PRESQUE ISLE • UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE • UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SCHOOL OF LAW



UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM



Our world needs higher education now more than ever. A pandemic has swept the globe. A new passion has awakened in us to acknowledge and root out structural racism. The teaching and learning at the core of the University of Maine System's public mission advance knowledge, diversity of thought, and human understanding in these challenging times, all of which are critical to the future health of our communities and society.

We are fortunate in Maine that our state leaders and public health authorities have so far kept the coronavirus from spreading unchecked. This presents us an opportunity to look ahead to how we can safely resume our academic operations in the fall.

As we have done throughout the pandemic, we continue to balance the advancement of knowledge with the public health of our university communities. With new capacity now to limit virus transmission through testing, contact tracking, and isolation, along with a strong communal discipline to follow social distancing

and other recognized public health measures, Maine's public universities will resume in-person teaching and learning on our campuses this fall because classroom instruction and immersion in a diverse community of ideas remains the best model to serve the majority of our learners. Doing so provides support and enrichment opportunities that are especially important to our first-generation and special population students. And for at-risk faculty, staff, and students, we'll employ new technologies and flexible teaching and learning modalities so that all have meaningful opportunities to participate with those on campus in their teaching, work, and learning.

Since the last day of on-campus instruction this past spring, our scientists, university presidents, faculty, and System and campus leaders have worked to be ready to bring people back together this fall if the science and the guidance of civil authorities would permit it. The work has not been easy or without risk, as we are still living in the midst of a global pandemic that requires us all to do our part to maintain personal and community health and public safety. The Together for Maine principles we announce today represent our commitment to serve our students and the state with science-informed plans that each of our public universities will be using to reduce the spread of disease, accommodate vulnerable members of our community, respond to incidents of coronavirus infection, and protect each other and our communities. I hope you'll do your part to keep our university communities safe as we return to our universities this fall.

Dannel P. Malloy, *Chancellor*

Fall 2020 SAFE RETURN Planning

The core questions for everyone in the university community since in-person operations were suspended in March has been how and when Maine's public universities could return to on-campus instruction and campus life. Chancellor Malloy formed the University of Maine System's Safe Return Planning Committee in April to answer those questions and to help the development of a proposed framework for the safe reopening of Maine's 38 public and private institutions collectively educating 72,600 students annually and contributing \$4.5 billion to the state's economy.

Informed and supported by the UMS Scientific Advisory Board chaired by University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy, the Fall 2020 Safe Return Planning Committee has established seven unifying principles regarding the nature of instruction, campus life, and the essential work of public higher education for the fall 2020 semester.

Each university within the University of Maine System has developed and will continue to adjust and refine reopening plans aligned with these unifying principles. The presidents of Maine's public universities and the dean of the University of Maine School of Law will begin sharing the details of their specific plans with students and families, faculty and staff, and stakeholders beginning on July 1 with regular communications and updates throughout the summer.

The planning effort included wide consultations with many stakeholders and has been aligned with parallel groups on all the campuses. Simultaneous academic

departments and faculty have been and will continue to work together to be prepared to support students on our campuses or wherever they may need to be this fall.

A list of the UMS committees and members who have contributed to our work to be Together for Maine this fall are included at the end of this document. These collaborative teams have met multiple times per week, sometimes daily.

More than 200 planning meetings and the equivalent of more than 40 weeks of effort already have been invested in these meetings alone. Thousands of additional hours have been invested by individual team members and by the important planning and implementation teams specific to each university.

The work that will bring our universities together for Maine this fall and the University of Maine System's commitment to student and community safety will persist throughout the pandemic. The University consistently seeks to take steps to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infections (or any other spread of disease) in accordance with applicable law, regulation, and guidance provided by health authorities. These efforts may include policies and safeguards implemented by the University, such as symptom checks, physical distancing, use of facial coverings, and isolating and quarantining when required. Despite these efforts, the University cannot categorically guarantee that any person entering UMS campuses or facilities will not contract COVID-19 or any other communicable disease, and any such person must assess and accept the risks of illness or injury for themselves.



Together for Maine

UNIFYING PRINCIPLES

1. Passing the Test and Planning for Isolation: It is important that the UMS is prepared for and committed to mitigation of viral transmission using the approach — test, trace, and isolate for safety. Each UMS campus will begin the semester with a plan and commitment for broad-based infection testing that complies with and takes safety steps stronger than those currently called for by civil authorities. Every student, faculty, and staff member from states or places beyond Maine will be required to have a negative COVID-19 test in hand when the semester begins. Further, other categories of vulnerable



“The coronavirus is especially stealthy and can be transmitted for up to 14 days by carriers who feel healthy and show no signs of infection. The biomedical community is working very hard to develop a vaccine and antiviral treatments for COVID-19, but we may still be several months or more away from a breakthrough.”



Melissa Maginnis, Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Virologist, UMaine Department of Molecular and Biomedical Sciences; Lead of the UMS Scientific Advisory Board

populations will warrant special consideration. The universities will conduct and require asymptomatic testing throughout the semester via high-quality RT-PCR testing through established partnerships. Universities will have isolation plans and spaces that permit students to continue their education during periods of mandated isolations and quarantine should such periods occur. Quarantine and isolation refer to practices for potentially ill individuals or for those known to be ill to remain away from others for a period of time. Details about testing will be forthcoming in much greater detail.

2. Staying Together for Maine: Classes will begin as scheduled on August 31. In-person instruction will end and students will be asked to depart residence halls no later than Wednesday, November 25 — the day before Thanksgiving. The final two weeks of the semester and exams will occur as scheduled after Thanksgiving, but remotely. Both travel outside of Maine during the semester and university-sponsored travel will be limited. Students or employees who do leave the state at any point during the semester will be required to adhere to the public health testing or quarantine protocols in place at the time of their return.

3. Campus space and safety modifications: Distance is a key line of defense against the spread of infection. Engineered options to improve physical distancing will include space-focused alterations to campus facilities, residence halls, and classrooms, and the installation of physical barriers in key areas of human interaction. We will work together to minimize crowds, closed spaces, and close contacts. Group-size limitations, fewer students in residence, and innovative classroom locations and approaches will further help us de-densify campuses. The universities will also be focused and investing in increased cleaning protocols and new hand sanitation stations, and providing disinfectant wipes at key locations.

Together for Maine

PREPARING OUR CAMPUSES FOR THE FALL

- **Six-foot or more physical distancing:**

Instructional, administrative and other spaces will be updated to accommodate physical distancing of six feet or more. This includes marking seats, rearranging or removing furniture, marking distancing spaces in areas where queues may form, and other steps as may be warranted to promote and make possible physical distancing. This includes classrooms, offices, and common residential and social spaces.

- **Handwashing and sanitizer stations:**

Handwashing will be strongly encouraged and supported with supplies and signage. Numerous hand sanitizer stations also will be visible and available inside the entrances of facilities and throughout campus facilities.

- **One-way foot traffic:**

Pedestrian foot traffic will be differentiated by direction in some areas. This may include steps such as designating areas of one-way foot traffic, enter-only and exit-only at classroom and building access points (except in the case of emergencies), and physical separation devices.

- **Paper towels in lieu of air dryers:**

Paper towels and appropriate emptying of the associated trash receptacles will replace air hand dryers.

- **Disinfectant wipes:**

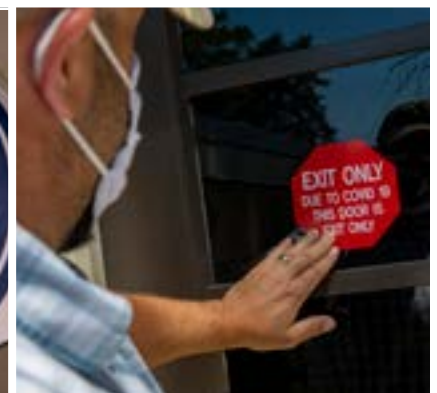
Disinfectant supplies will be available at many locations for the immediate wiping down of common spaces and places such as classroom desks by individual users.

- **Physical barriers:**

Physical barriers of various kinds are being installed to shield individuals from the respiratory droplets of others in many areas where person-to-person interactions occur.

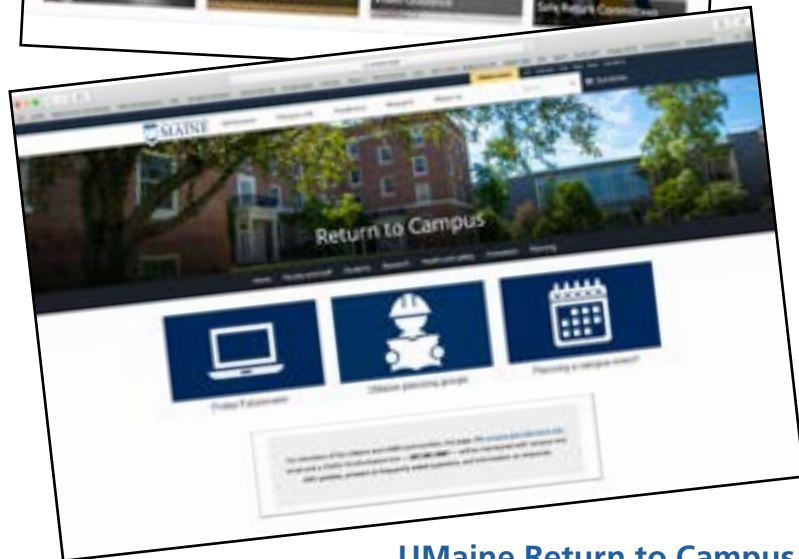
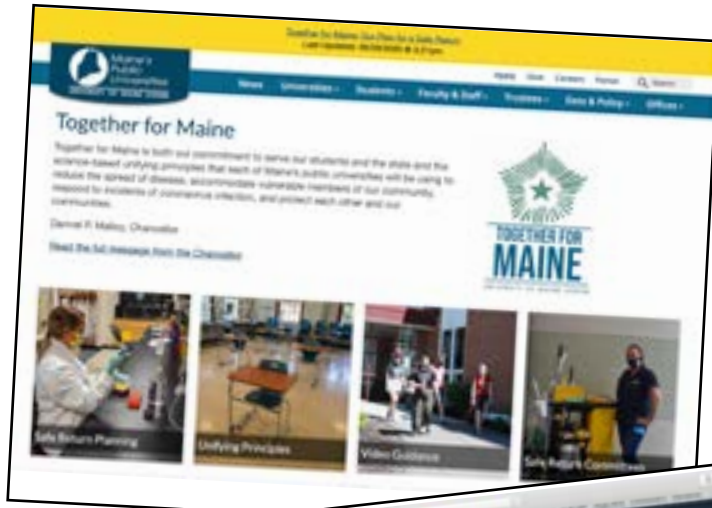
- **Signage:**

There will be signs posted to remind all of us of the various changes in practices and the things we all can do to help ensure in-person education can continue.



Together for Maine UNIFYING PRINCIPLES

[Together.Maine.Edu](https://www.togetherformaine.edu)



[UMaine Return to Campus](https://www.umaine.edu/return-to-campus)

4. Making a pledge is the Maine thing: Each student, staff, and faculty member will be asked and challenged to be a champion for keeping themselves and others safe. Social compacts or pledges will be in place at all campuses. These pledges will include commitments to science-based practices, such as wearing a face covering, that are clearly demonstrated to significantly reduce the spread of disease. The pledges will also include actions such as monitoring your own health, avoiding unnecessary travel, and staying home when sick.

5. Communication will be crucial: The Chancellor and presidents will be communicating openly and often about our status, adjustments to this plan and about the System's ability to continue with in-person instruction. Guidance will be clear and updated immediately when necessary to maintain alignment with the directives of civil authorities.



Together for Maine

UNIFYING PRINCIPLES

6. Instruction will be innovative and flexible: With millions of dollars in classroom technology improvements happening this summer with the support of the Board of Trustees, classes will be offered in modalities that range from online to outdoors and from in-person to hyflex. Our outstanding faculty will continue their strong commitment to providing high-quality learning opportunities for all students, using well-established high-impact practices and implementing new practices to reach students where they are. The schedule also will be different this fall both in terms of our time on campus and daily schedules.

7. Working Together for Maine: Support and training for faculty and staff: The employees of Maine's public universities are entrusted with and expected to prioritize student, personal, and community health. A comprehensive training and support guide has been developed to direct a phased reopening and return to campus operations. The guide recognizes the challenges of life in the midst of pandemic and that some members of the university community are at greater risk or may be in need of special consideration. The guide outlines the flexibility and accommodations for work units and individual employees that will be available and the emphasis the UMS is placing on collective care and support.

The return to campus guidelines are considered a part of the UMS' Employee Policies and Procedures, and every faculty and staff member will be required to complete a training on the guide and its protocols.

Classroom Spaces Pass the Test on Group Size Guidance

75% of University of Maine System's 772 classroom spaces will have 15 or fewer people.

90% of classroom spaces will have 20 or fewer people in them.

98% of classroom spaces already adhere to the requirement of civil authorities to limit group gatherings to 50 people.



Together for Maine

INNOVATIVE AND FLEXIBLE INSTRUCTION

“We are working hard to make sure student learning goes forward in all kinds of modes — online and in person. Over the summer, our outstanding faculty have come together to think about the most innovative ways to offer lab courses and a group of successful faculty ambassadors are making themselves available as mentors.”



[VIDEO President Ferrini-Mundy](#)



Joan Ferrini-Mundy, President of the University of Maine and its regional campus, the University of Maine at Machias

“In BIO100 labs at UMaine, we guide our students to ask questions, test predictions, analyze and interpret results, and reflect on why it all matters. In fall 2020 we will launch a semester-long ecological field study. Students will use their home ecosystems, the UMaine campus, or anywhere as research sites. A collaborative, interactive mapping tool will allow students to see and learn from each other’s lab results, and apply molecular to global biological concepts in regional or national contexts.”



Julia McGuire, Lecturer in Biology, University of Maine

Fall 2020

SAFE RETURN COMMITTEES

The membership of the Safe Return Planning Team includes:

Jeremy Chubbuck, Associate Executive Director of Facilities Management, UMaine
Robert Norman, Manager of Training and Development, UMaine
Stewart Harvey, Executive Director of Facilities and Capital Management Services, UMaine
Brenda McAleer, Dean of the College of Professional Studies and Associate Provost, UMA
Robert Marden, Director of Campus Safety and Security, UMA
Tiffany Maiuri, Director of Custom Enterprise Solutions, UMF
Christine Wilson, Vice President for Student Affairs, UMF
Erin Soucy, Dean for the Undergraduate School of Nursing, UMFK
Brian Schaefer, Director of Facilities Management, UMFK
Leslie Kelly, Associate Dean of Information Services and Distance Education, UMFK
Marnie Kaler, Dean of Students and Admissions, UMM
Barbara Blackstone, Dean of Professional Programs, UMPI
Joe Moir, Director of Facilities Management, UMPI
Jason Johnston, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, UMPI
Chris Lindstrom, Vice President of Campus Human Resources, UMS
Dominic Barraclough, Vice Provost for Mission and Accreditation, USM
David Roussel, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, USM
Ron Saindon, Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police, USM
Nicole Vinal, Assistant Dean for Finance and Administration Law School, UML
Sara Mlynarchek, Assistant General Counsel, UMS
Dan Demeritt, Executive Director of Public Affairs, UMS
Robert Placido, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, UMS — Co-Chair
Chip Gavin, Chief Facilities Management and General Services Officer, UMS — Co-Chair



Fall 2020

SAFE RETURN COMMITTEES



The UMS Scientific Advisory Board includes:

Joan Ferrini-Mundy, President, University of Maine — Chair
Melissa Maginnis, Assistant Professor of Microbiology, UMaine — Lead
Caitlin Howell, Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering, UMaine
Kristy Townsend, Associate Professor of Neurobiology, UMaine
Robert Wheeler, Associate Professor of Microbiology, UMaine
Sara Huston, Assistant Research Professor, Chronic Disease Epidemiologist, USM

The Residential Advisory Board includes:

Andra Bowen, Associate Director of Residence Life, UMaine
Kenda Scheele, Associate Vice President and Senior Associate Dean, UMaine
Brian Ufford, Director of Student Life, UMF
David Roussel, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, USM
Daniel Sturupp, Executive Director of Auxiliary Services, UMaine
Sheri Fraser, Dean of Students, UMA
Marnie Kaler, Dean of Students and Admissions, UMM
Matthew Morrin, Dean of Students, UMFK
Sarah Coyer, Director of Student Life, UMPI
Sara Mlynarchek, Assistant General Counsel, UMS



Fall 2020

SAFE RETURN COMMITTEES



The Incident Commanders of the Respective Campus Emergency Teams include:

- Joe Szakas, Vice President of Academic Affairs/Provost, UMA
- Brenda McAleer, Incident Cmd (Alt), UMA
- Rob Marden, Incident Cmd (Alt)/Safety Officer, UMA
- Laurie Gardner, Chief Business Officer, UMF
- Tiffany Maiuri, Incident Cmd/Communications, UMF
- Keenan Farwell, Incident Cmd (Alt)/Operations/Logistics, UMF
- Marnie Kaler, Dean of Students and Admissions, Incident Cmd (Alt)/Planning/
Dining/ Housing, UMM
- Leslie Kelly, Associate Dean of Information Services and Distance Education, UMFK
- Brian Schaefer, Incident Cmd (Alt)/Operations (FM)/Safety Officer, UMFK
- Roland LaCroix, Chief of Police, UMaine
- Bob Norman, Incident Cmd (Alt), UMaine
- Lisa Burton, Incident Cmd (Alt)/Safety Officer, UMaine
- Fred Thomas, Director of Safety and Security and Regulatory Compliance, UMPI
- Joe Moir, Incident Cmd (Alt)/Operations-FM/Logistics, UMPI
- Benjamin Shaw, Incident Cmd (Alt)/Finance, UMPI
- Ronald Saindon, Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police, USM
- Timothy Farwell, Incident Commander (Alt)/Security, USM



Planning for a Healthier and Safer Maine

Together.Maine.edu

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The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies: Director of Equal Opportunity, 101 North Stevens Hall,
University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469-5754, 207.581.1226, TTY 711 (Maine Relay System).