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# SAFE RETURN TO FARMINGTON YOUR MAINE HOME

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July 1, 2020





**F**all 2020 will mark the beginning of a strange, new time at Farmington, and at institutions across the world. After months of committee meetings and research, learning and planning, the University of Maine System (UMS) announced that all of its seven campuses, including Farmington, will open and resume classes this fall.

Following the seven UMS guiding principles, Farmington's faculty, staff, and administration have worked to reimagine how we can continue to provide the education and service that our students and community expect from us. We built our plan on four principles designed to inform the greater community and shape our behavior:

- Commitment to the health and safety of all members of the Farmington community.
- Stacking preventative measures to create the greatest possible protection against exposure and community spread of COVID-19.
- Flexibility that allows us to anticipate potential future challenges and adjust quickly as circumstances change.
- Awareness that we have a critical role to play in the successful return to on-campus and in-person activities. Our actions must be guided by concern for others.

By now, I am sure you are used to hearing that these plans are subject to change, as the circumstances around us are constantly shifting. And, we recognize that for some members of our community returning to campus may not be the best option. The following information is not comprehensive but it will help you understand what kind of changes you can expect and how we can work together to make Farmington a safe place to live and learn.

We still have details to work out and we are ready to adapt as circumstances change. The most important thing to remember is that each of us plays a vital role in our ability to minimize risk as we return to campus. Each day we must live our obligation to each other as members of this community. Wear a mask, wash your hands, check your symptoms, and keep your distance — we're in this together, even at six feet apart.

All the best,  
Edward Serna, President  
University of Maine at Farmington

**Safe Return to Farmington – Your Maine Home**

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**Safe Return to Farmington – Your Maine Home** is our comprehensive plan to keep our campus and our community safe by limiting the spread of COVID-19. The Safe Return Planning Committee is developing the plans and protocols needed for the successful return to campus activities, collaborating with the University of Maine System (UMS), and the UMS Science Advisory Board to help every member of the Farmington family stay safe and healthy this fall.

This plan will continue to evolve and reflect the latest data, science, and recommendations surrounding COVID-19.

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# A Safe Beaver Community

All students, staff, and faculty will be required to wear face coverings, at all times, except within the confines of their residence hall rooms or suites. A safety kit will be provided to all students. Each kit will include two plain face coverings, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes. More information on the distribution of the kits will be available in mid-August. While we are providing face coverings, we encourage students to bring extra reusable face coverings to campus this fall.



Facilities Management (FM) is working to assess and implement safety measures in all campus buildings. One of the first steps in returning to research operations has been to ensure public spaces in all buildings on campus adhere to campus-wide COVID-19 safety standards. UMF has increased safety signage to identify maximum occupancy numbers, with marked spaces to maintain social distancing and enhanced disinfection, such as hand sanitizer dispensers.

Additionally, FM is installing plexiglass hygiene barriers across campus in high-risk, high-contact areas. They have also installed 6' social distancing floor decals in the hallways, single direction staircase signage, and entrance and exit doors signage for buildings. Classrooms have been modified to allow for six feet of social distancing, with a maximum capacity of 30 students in the largest lecture halls. Administration and FM are working to find creative solutions to the decrease in classroom capacities.



# Safe Beavers Pledge

We know our students care about taking care of themselves and others. In a recent survey of returning UMF students, 85% of the 600 participants indicated they are willing to maintain safety measures while on campus, such as social distancing and wearing face coverings. We need 100% of our students to hold themselves accountable.

Students will be expected to, among other things:

- Monitor their symptoms and report to a medical professional if they experience a fever of 100.4F (38 C) or higher, dry cough, difficulty breathing, chills, shaking, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or loss of taste and smell.
- Practice diligent hand hygiene.
- Get vaccinated for the flu in the fall.
- Wear an appropriate face covering and other protective gear
- Maintain social distancing (at least 6 feet) at all times outside of my residence hall room.
- Stay isolated if I am feeling ill or after a suspected or known exposure to someone with COVID-19
- Comply with testing and contact tracing protocols mandated by the University of Maine System, state, and federal authorities.

# Accountability

While the University seeks and encourages its community to come together in support of each other and our shared safety, the University also will enforce the required Covid-19 health and safety protocols as necessary and warranted. These procedures already exist both for employees, in the form of existing progressive disciplinary practices, and for students, in the form of the student code of conduct (Board of Trustee Policy 501) and the code's associated disciplinary provisions. The student conduct code already provides for enforcement in the case, for example, of creating a dangerous condition; endangering health or safety: conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any individual; and violation of University health or safety regulations. Again, the University's primary focus is on all of us pulling together to keep each other safe.

Safe Return to Farmington – Your Maine Home

## SAFE BEAVERS PLEDGE

We know our students care about taking care of themselves and others. In a recent survey of returning UMF students, 85% of the 600 participants indicated they are willing to maintain safety measures while on campus, such as social distancing and wearing face coverings.

Now is the time to move beyond being willing, and fully commit to upholding the **Safe Beavers Pledge**. We need 100% of our students to hold themselves accountable.

### I COMMIT TO:

#### 1. PROTECT MYSELF

- Monitor my symptoms and report to a medical professional if I experience a fever of 100.4F (38 C) or higher, dry cough, difficulty breathing, chills, shaking, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or loss of taste and smell.
- Practice diligent hand hygiene. I will wash my hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer, frequently throughout the day, and before and after entering a new space.
- Get vaccinated for the flu in the fall.

#### 2. PROTECT MY PEERS

- Wear an appropriate face covering and other protective gear at all times, especially around other people and in common areas.
- Maintain social distancing (at least 6 feet) at all times
- Stay isolated if I am feeling ill or after a suspected or known exposure to someone with COVID-19
- Be mindful of my peers, and help those who may struggle with the necessary changes to campus life

#### 3. PROTECT MY FARMINGTON COMMUNITY

- Comply with testing and contact tracing protocols mandated by the University of Maine System, state, and federal authorities.
- Carefully observe instructional signage and follow directions
- Complete required safety training
- Abide by campus cleaning protocols of high touch areas and shared items.
- Kindly remind peers and colleagues of the health and safety expectation and be receptive, in return, if someone reminds me to comply.

I pledge to do these things for my own health, the UMF community, and the health of the people who matter most to me: my friends, my folks, my family.



<https://bit.ly/SafeBeaversPledge>



# What We Know Today

## Living and Learning this Fall

**Classes at Farmington** will resume on August 31, in a combination of in-person, blended, and online modalities. All classes will then shift to remote modalities after Wednesday, November 25 — the day before Thanksgiving.

We intend to be as flexible as possible with fall courses, anticipating primarily in-person instruction informed by social distancing practices and other safety measures. The dynamic engagement and shared experience facilitated by face-to-face learning is one of UMF's unquestionable strengths and was sorely missed by faculty and students alike last spring. However, we also recognize that in some cases this fall, the most appropriate option will be to modify the in-class approach with innovative online offerings, including both hybrid and fully distanced class sections.

Towards that end, UMF has hired a new full-time Instructional Designer and is in the process of adding technology for synchronous instruction and web conferencing in more than a dozen classrooms. Additional details regarding classroom availability, scheduling, and teaching modalities will be announced in the coming weeks.

**Internships, Field Work, Practica, and Student Teaching.** Each internship, field work, practicum, and student teaching setting is different. We are working with all of our school and community partners to determine what in-person or alternate experiences will be feasible this fall. We are also reviewing what experiences we can support on campus.



**Residence Halls** will be open with single and double rooms and suites, but there will be no triple or quad rooms in Fall. For the safety of the residents, there will be no guests allowed during the first two weeks of the semester. At the end of the two weeks, we will evaluate the situation. Tentatively, after the first two weeks, residents may have one guest per person at a time if they are UMF students; no other guests are allowed for at least the fall semester. Students with medical and other concerns will have the opportunity to request accommodations, waivers, and contract releases later in July.

**Tutoring** will continue to be available through the Student Learning Commons, both in person and online.

**Classroom and residence hall accommodations** for students with disabilities will continue to be available through the Learning Assistance Center.

**Dining Services** will be provided, and the dining halls and retail operations have been updated for social distancing and safety for students and dining services staff. Self-service options will no longer be available. You can find more detailed information on [Sodexo's website here](#).

**Mantor Library** will be open for its regular semester hours. We will be providing disinfectant wipes for technology (computers, circulating equipment, etc.).

Books that have been returned (or used within the library) will be quarantined for 72 hours before being placed back on the shelf. Plexiglass shields will be present at the circulation desk, and patrons will be able to check their own material out, touch-free. **Reference services** will be provided over Zoom, with a link installed on each computer in the library that will provide direct access to a reference librarian.

The **Fitness and Recreation Center** will be open, with significant changes to account for social distancing and traffic flow. Face coverings will be required of all patrons above the age of 2 in order to gain access to the facility, and will be required while in the lobby, offices, and restrooms. All fitness equipment for personal use (stability balls, medicine balls, jump ropes, bands, etc.) will be removed from the fitness floor and available only for checkout. Each piece of equipment will be cleaned and allowed to dry according to CDC best-practices before being returned to circulation for use.

The **Merrill Center for Student Services** and the **UMF Financial Aid Office** will be open for the 2020-21 academic year with some significant changes in place designed to optimize the safety and well-being of students, staff, and others who need to transact business with the two areas. While continuing to emphasize the use of email, regular mail, phones, Zoom

appointments, and live chat, the staff is prepared to be open to serve students in person.

**Counseling Services, Career Services, and advising** (LUN and LIB) will continue to offer support to students, faculty, and staff. Social distancing is not possible in these offices, and the use of face coverings is not appropriate due to the nature of the work, so the staff will continue to meet with students online. The staff has worked diligently to move paperwork and documentation to secure, online formats to help reduce any barriers these changes may cause, and to facilitate better access to services.

**Testing Services** is currently making plans to reopen later in July to offer tests including, but not limited to Praxis, GRE's, and Accuplacer. The staff will screen testing candidates prior to entry into the building to ensure they are safe to enter. Staff and testing candidates will be required to use face coverings (unless someone has an exemption), social distancing, and hand sanitizing. There will be increased cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces; the staff is doing everything necessary to support public health while meeting the testing needs of students and the community.

The Office of **Orientation** and Transition Programs will still provide a Fall Orientation experience for all new students. All essential training and activities will be available remotely for students who are unable or uncomfortable with attending in-person. Some face-to-face training and activities will also be held on campus once students return. For any in-person gatherings, current CDC and state guidelines will be followed, including requiring face coverings for all attendees, employing social distancing, and limiting gatherings to no more than 50 people. More information on the schedule for New Student Orientation will be shared on August 1.

**Student Life** will be providing programs and services for students. The **Student Center** will be open with, like other offices on campus, social distancing and traffic flow changes. We will still hold fun, exciting, and informative events in the **Landing**, and we also will work to hold our programs on Zoom and outdoors (in September and October). Zoom programs may also have grab bags for students to pick up in the Student Center hallway. We plan to resume Weekend Adventures and Excursions in Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire.

We are excited to welcome back our **student clubs, organizations, and the Student Senate**. Clubs will be able to meet in person on campus as long as members are adhering to social distance and other guidelines, and as long as members are wearing face coverings. Because some students will need to be online, club and organization leaders are encouraged to conduct meetings using online functions as well. Club and organization travel activities will be limited due to state of Maine and other state travel limitations. Finally, we are working to create a virtual club fair due to state guidelines preventing large gatherings.

While we are prepared and excited to welcome our student athletes, the University of Maine System, including UMF, has not yet been able to make a decision regarding varsity **Athletics**. The changing status of the pandemic, as well as the different decisions that individual institutions across New England are making, have made it challenging to determine a course of action. We anticipate being able to make a decision by July 10.



The **Shuttle Service** may be limited for the fall semester, but we hope to maintain the Augusta option. Farmington Shuttle service may still run with trips to Hannaford and Wal-Mart. If we are unable to transport students in the shuttle, we will do curbside pick-up on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings for students. All Shuttle passengers and drivers will be required to wear face covering while in the vans.

The **Student Health Center** will provide "Call-in Care" instead of walk-in care for scheduling same-day appointments. The front entrance will be unlocked daily with the door entrance to the waiting room remaining locked. Clear signage will be posted with the phone number/email and instructions for entry. A COVID-19 pre-screen will be performed on all patients prior to entrance. The foyer will be limited to one patient at a time, and the waiting room will be limited to three patients at a time with chairs spaced appropriately 6 feet apart. The receptionist area will have additional plexiglass protection. Patients and staff must wear masks/face coverings or a face shield – no exceptions. Exam rooms, bathrooms, and labs will be sanitized after every visit. The waiting room will be sanitized hourly or as often as staff can manage.

**Appointments** with Nurse Practitioner (NP) and Psychiatric Mental Health NP will be staggered to minimize the number of patients in the Student Health Center at one time. Patients will call the front desk when they arrive and will be met by the Medical Assistant (MA) at the door and escorted to an exam room. Routine health care and follow-ups will continue through telehealth, as appropriate, to limit face to face visits as much as possible.

Any patient pre-screened for COVID-19 with positive findings will enter the Health Center through a specifically designated separate entrance/location (conference room). This is the only room designated for symptomatic patients that allow for ventilation. Staff will have completely donned PPE prior to the patient's arrival. This PPE will include fit-tested N95 masks. Any instruments used during the evaluation will be completely sanitized as well as furniture wiped down.

Any student, staff, or faculty with pre-existing conditions, immunodeficiency, chronic health conditions, etc., should consult with their PCP and other specialty providers to determine the safety of return to campus. SHC will not make this designation.



The **Title IX Office** will be open and will continue to oversee UMF's response to reports and complaints that involve possible sexual misconduct, harassment and discrimination. The office also monitors outcomes, identifies patterns, and assesses effects on the campus community. The office will continue to provide training as well as educational materials, programs, and events.

Most meetings, training, programs, and events will take place virtually. In-person meetings can be arranged and will employ social distancing standards. Other Title IX processes and procedures (such as investigations and hearings) will continue to take place as needed. These meetings and processes will be done virtually. In-person sessions can be arranged and will employ social distancing and/or wearing face coverings. Participants at any in-person meetings will be provided with hand sanitizer and high touch surfaces will be cleaned often.

Educational and informational materials will be provided electronically. Hard copies will be available if requested. Any requested hard copies will be given only to the requester and will not be touched by multiple people. Informational materials that are provided in common campus spaces (such as bulletin boards and bathrooms) will all be laminated so they can be disinfected.

**Campus Police** will continue to provide 24/7/365 police services for the University and will have one Campus Police Officer on-duty at all times. The on-duty Campus Police Officer will respond in person to all calls for service while wearing proper personal protective equipment (face coverings) and maintaining physical distancing requirements (6 feet), when feasible.

The **Public Safety Office** and lobby will be cleaned daily, per CDC guidance, in order to accommodate walk-in visitors. Considerations have been made for an in-person meeting area at the Public Safety Office if and when a UMF community member would like to meet privately with a Campus Police Officer. Telephone and online meetings will also be used for those who wish not to meet in person, due to COVID-19 or other concerns.

**Office of Admissions** will be open with significant changes in place designed to optimize the safety and well-being of prospective students and their families. Counselors and staff will continue to use email, phones, Zoom appointments, live chat, and virtual events. The office will be open so staff can meet with folks in person, as well. While the staff will hold a small number of in person events in Maine, travel in the fall will be limited due to restrictions in Maine and other states.



# Safe Return Planning Committee

In coordination with the UMS Safe Return Planning Committee, Farmington's own faculty, staff, and administration have worked to reimagine how we can continue to provide the education and service that our students and community expect from us.

Adam Vigue, General Manager for Sodexo  
Amie Parker, Director of Human Resources  
Amy Perreault, President's Office Administrative Specialist  
Ashley Montgomery, Assistant Dean of Teaching and Learning Assessment  
Ben White, Director of Fitness and Recreation Center  
Brian Ufford, Director of Student Life  
Brock Caton, Director of Public Safety  
Bryce Cundick, Library Director  
Carla DeGraw, Registrar  
Chris Magri, Associate Professor of Physics  
Christine Wilson, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management  
Debbie Moody, Assistant Director of Student Financial Services/ Director of Merrill Center  
Erin Connor, Associate Dean for Graduate and Continuing Education  
Ernestine Hutchinson, Conference and Events Coordinator  
George Miller, Assistant Professor of Philosophy & Advising Program Development  
Jess Berry, Director of Learning Assistance Center  
Jesse Potts, Associate Professor of Art  
Julie Davis, Director of Athletics, Fitness & Recreation  
Kathy Yardley, Associate Provost and Dean of Education, Health and Rehabilitation  
Kathy Falco, Director of Finance  
Katie Fournier, Director for Center for Student Development  
Keenan Farwell, Director of Facilities Management  
Linda Beck, Associate Dean of Experiential & Global Education/Professor of Political Science  
Lisa Ellrich, Director of Admissions  
Niki Woodhouse, UMF Campus IT Officer and US:IT Customer Experience Program Manager  
Patty Williams, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education  
Ron Millken, Director of Financial Aid  
Sarah Hardy, Professor of Mathematics and President of Faculty Senate  
Shelley Hickey, Director of Student Health Center  
Stephanie LeBlanc, Student Accounts and Financial Services Manager  
Steve Quackenbush, Associate Provost and Dean of Arts & Science  
Tiff Maiuri, Director of Custom Enterprise Solutions

# UMS Science Advisory Board

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The health and safety plans surrounding UMF's return to campus are guided by a science advisory board represented by a team of highly qualified and knowledgeable experts.

Melissa Maginnis, Assistant Professor of Microbiology, UM – Lead

Caitlin Howell Assistant Professor of Bioengineering, UM

Kristy Townsend, Associate Professor of Neurobiology, UM

Robert Wheeler, Associate Professor of Microbiology, UM

Sara Huston, Chronic Disease Epidemiologist, USM

Gretchen Catlin, Risk Manager, UMS

Robert Placido, Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs, UMS

Chip Gavin, Chief Facilities Management and General Services Officer, UMS

Joan Ferrini-Mundy, President, University of Maine — Chair



**Safe Return to Farmington – Your Maine Home**

# WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER, EVEN AT SIX FEET APART.

Safe Return to Farmington – Your Maine Home

**#STOPTHESPREADUMF**

**MORE DETAILS?**

**QUESTIONS?**

**[WWW.UMF.MAINE.EDU/RETURN](http://WWW.UMF.MAINE.EDU/RETURN)**

**[UMF.SAFERETURN@MAINE.EDU](mailto:UMF.SAFERETURN@MAINE.EDU)**



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, social distancing, use of facial coverings, and isolating and quarantining when required. Despite these efforts, the University cannot categorically guarantee that any person entering University 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.