The University of Maine advances learning and discovery through excellence and innovation in undergraduate and graduate academic programs while addressing the complex challenges and opportunities of the 21st century through research-based knowledge.

In these unprecedented times as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact us all, we persevere together. Only together can we all achieve our individual and corporate goals. We must continue to work together to protect the health and safety of every person in our campus community, to preserve the opportunity to remain on campus, to achieve our potential, and to move beyond today.
University of Maine

Black Bears Care is the public health/social conscience plan for the University of Maine community to help limit the spread of COVID-19. The University of Maine continues to develop tools and protocols for the successful resumption of instruction and activities, working in conjunction with the University of Maine System, and state and federal offices.

During these unprecedented times, with the impact of a global pandemic, we continue to define tomorrow. It will require every one of us to do our part to keep our community safe as we return for a new academic year.
UMS and UMaine Planning Groups

- UMS Scientific Advisory Board
- Emergency Operations Center and EOC Planning Group
- Fall Academic Planning Group
- Remote Teaching Working Group
- Teaching Lab Safety Group
- Residential Advisory Board
- Student Life Planning Group
- Medical and Public Health Planning Group
- And many more
Black Bears Care

Our plan is to keep everyone safe on our campus and in UMaine offices and facilities statewide by reducing risk posed by COVID-19. These tools and protocols are necessary for a successful return to campus, offices and facilities by students and employees alike.

It will take everyone doing their part to protect themselves and others to make sure we stay safe.

As we move forward, this plan will evolve and change in accordance with guidance from the state and federal Centers for Disease Control, and the state of Maine.

The Black Bears Care plan has seven principles.
Black Bears Care Principles

1. Expect each Black Bear community member to assume personal responsibility to protect themselves, others and the university community
2. Follow personal health and safety practices and protocols
3. Make changes to physical spaces to reduce the opportunity for disease transmission
4. Offer and support a range of instructional options and modalities for students and faculty
5. Engage our community and stakeholders with timely, consistent and clear communication and guidance
6. Advance our mission in safe, innovative and responsible ways
7. Anticipate and plan with flexibility and responsiveness to changing information, develop contingencies
1. Expect each Black Bear community member to assume personal responsibility to protect themselves, others and the university community.

BLACK BEAR PACT

DEFINE TOMORROW. START TODAY BY COMMITTING TO:

• PROTECT YOURSELF
• PROTECT OTHERS
• PROTECT THE COLLEGE OF OUR HEARTS ALWAYS
Protect Yourself

• Monitor for the symptoms of COVID-19 and report to a medical professional if experiencing symptoms that include fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher, dry cough, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat or loss of taste or smell

• Wash hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer

• Get vaccinated for the flu each fall
Protect Others

• Maintain appropriate social distancing, particularly in indoor settings
• Stay home if feeling ill or after exposure to someone who is ill or has tested positive for COVID-19
• Wear an appropriate face covering and other protective gear as directed by the university
• Be positive, sensitive and helpful to anyone who may be troubled or struggling
Protect the College of Our Hearts Always

• Keep clothing, belongings, personal spaces and shared common spaces clean
• Participate in testing and contact tracing to preserve the wellness of the community
• Carefully observe instructional signs and follow directions

Standards For Operation

#StopTheSpread

FOLLOW CDC GUIDELINES FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING AND SLOWING THE TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19.

BE AN ACTIVE BYSTANDER AND TAKE PRECAUTIONS TO REDUCE THE RISK!

UMAINE.EDU/RETURN
2. Follow personal health and safety protocols and practices

Personal wellness kits will be provided to students and employees. Student mental health services have been expanded to include telecounseling. Guidelines and support are being provided to student organizations to facilitate group meetings and recruitment.

Review residence hall policies/procedures, including guest policy.

**Personal Wellness Kits:**
- String bag
- Face covering
- Refillable bottle of hand sanitizer
- Door opener multi-tool
- Cell phone card holder
3. Make changes to physical spaces to reduce the opportunity for disease transmission

**Pedestrian traffic flow**: Directing pedestrian foot traffic, especially in facilities where 6-foot social distancing will be difficult to maintain. New one-way foot traffic patterns will be introduced in some spaces.

**Hand sanitizer**: Installing numerous visible hand sanitizer stations campuswide.

**Physical distancing**: Marking spaces for minimum 6-foot distancing, including removing furniture and changing foot traffic flow.

**Hygiene barriers**: Installing clear hygiene barriers in areas where social distancing will be difficult to maintain.

**Face coverings**: Supplying face coverings to students and employees.

**Classroom and Lab Disinfectant**: Supplying classrooms and labs with hand sanitizer and/or disinfecting wipes.
3. Make changes to physical spaces continued

Reducing Density: Changing occupancy densities in dining halls, classrooms, meeting rooms and other gathering spaces

Isolation: Identifying quarantine and isolation spaces for residential students

Housing and Dining: Changing to no triples, and food takeout, grab and go, and limited delivery

In restrooms and bathrooms:
- Cleaning shared bathrooms regularly using EPA-registered disinfectants, at least twice daily (or more often if more frequent cleaning already is standard)
- Disabling air hand dryers and supplying paper towels
- Regularly emptying trash receptacles
- Promoting physical distancing and handwashing, including instructions posted in bathrooms
- Ensuring bathrooms are continuously stocked with soap and/or hand sanitizer
- Opening windows when possible to increase ventilation in bathrooms
- Encouraging use of totes in residential bathrooms rather than placing personal items directly on shared surfaces
- Limiting residence hall bathrooms to those who live on the same floor or wing
4. Offer and support a range of instructional options and modalities for students and faculty

Fall Academic Planning Group is working with deans and faculty to plan for fall 2020.

CITL is working with faculty to prepare class delivery in a variety of formats.

IT is working to support new software and hardware needs.

Student Accessibility Services is supporting students in innovative ways to adapt to new and different instructional modalities.
5. Engage our community and stakeholders with timely, consistent and clear communication and guidance

UMaine regularly communicates to the campus community through email, announcements and messages.

Several town hall meetings/panels have been hosted live accepting questions and inquiries from participants. More to come.

UMaine and UMS coronavirus websites were stood up in March.

The COVID-19 Information line (207.581.2681) and umaine.alerts@maine.edu have been active throughout the spring and summer, and the Emergency Operations Center releases information consistently.

The umaine.edu/return and together.maine.edu websites address questions and provide information for fall 2020.
6. Advance our mission in safe, innovative and responsible ways

Academic course offerings and delivery options continue to be reviewed and evaluated for fall 2020.

The Office of the Vice President for Research continues to release information to keep the research enterprise updated and moving forward.

Service commitments and opportunities continue uninterrupted, albeit in new and alternate ways as dictated by safety and health guidance.
7. Anticipate and plan with flexibility and responsiveness

We are committed to meeting students where they are with the best possible access to scholarship, enrichment, flexibility and support.

Many system and campus planning groups continue to work to develop solutions and contingencies based on the latest information and guidance from state, federal and science-based sources.

Plans will continue to evolve and change as resources become available or unavailable, and as operational decisions are made and announced. For example, testing is an often-asked question that is being addressed and considered by the appropriate teams.
Resources

University of Maine: umaine.edu/return

University of Maine System: together.maine.edu

To sign up for emergency updates and alerts: umaine.edu/emergency

For COVID-19 questions: umaine.alerts@maine.edu

COVID-19 Information Line: 207.581.2681; live Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. EST; leave message for return call.
REMEMBER: Black Bear Pact

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