As a member of the UMPI community, I have a responsibility to myself and others to ensure a safe and healthy campus environment. By persistently following science-based campus health and safety protocols and encouraging others to do the same, and by knowing the signs of COVID-19 and monitoring my symptoms, I can protect myself and my fellow Owls.

To stop the spread of COVID-19, I pledge to:

- Wear face coverings while indoors on campus.
- Check for COVID-19 symptoms daily, especially a fever of 100.4 F or higher.
- Wash hands often and for at least 20 seconds each time.
- Consider getting an annual flu vaccine (this is highly encouraged).
- Stay home when sick and seek proper medical attention.
- Participate in testing, contact tracing, and self-quarantine if asked to do so.
- Hold others accountable in a kind and helpful manner.

I am committed to doing everything I can to keep myself and others safe and COVID-free.
UMPI’s Safe Return planning work has been led by Director Joe Moir for Facilities, Associate Dean Sarah Coyer for Student Life, and Dean Barb Blackstone for Academics. Together with the campuswide planning group and members of their committees, they have worked to review all campus operations and develop detailed and comprehensive plans to best ensure the health and safety of our campus community.

SAFE RETURN PLANNING GROUPS

UMPI Safe Return Campuswide Planning Group
Ray Rice
Chris Bell
Barb Blackstone*
Sarah Coyer*
Melissa DeMerchant
Betsy Sawhill Espe
Sara Farnham
Jason Johnston
Dan Kane
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UMPI Student Life Return Committee
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Mary Kate Barbosa
Ralph McPherson
Matthew Morrin
Jennifer Ball

*Also represented UMPI on University of Maine System teams, boards, and groups contributing to Safe Return planning efforts.
At the beginning of 2020, no one could have guessed what the year would hold for us—the abrupt end to live classes in March, our very first virtual graduation event in May, and our Safe Return to campus for the 2020-2021 academic year in August.

This plan, updated for our Safe Return to the Fall 2021 semester, represents the hard work of many members of the UMPI community to make your return to campus as safe as possible. It has been informed and supported by the University of Maine System Scientific Advisory Board. And it covers every aspect of our day-to-day campus operations, taking into account the modifications needed to keep everyone—students, faculty, staff, and visitors—safe and healthy. This guidance applies to UMPI’s Houlton Center unless otherwise noted. Here is a brief overview:

We are planning for your safe return to campus for the fall semester, with classes beginning on Aug. 30 and final exams ending on Dec. 17.

We will follow health and safety guidelines and requirements. Face coverings are required indoors and students participating in on-campus experiences must be fully vaccinated and verify their status on the UMS online portal (there are exemptions—medical, religious, and online only—to this vaccine requirement).

We may have a reduced number of students and employees physically on campus as some opt to learn and work remotely.

We will implement a phased return to campus for residence hall students to allow for self-quarantine.

We will conduct weekly COVID-19 asymptomatic testing for those who are exempted and those who are not yet fully vaccinated and will participate in on-campus experiences. Others are encouraged to take part in voluntary weekly testing.

We will offer a range of course modalities to ensure degree progress.

We will embrace the UMPI “All Owls In” Pledge, a commitment to each other to ensure a safe and healthy campus environment.

We will align our planning with the timetable and guidelines of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Governor’s Office.

We will do all of this with the understanding that, due to the nature of this pandemic, all plans are subject to change.

On the following pages, you will find plan details grouped in the following categories:

- Academics
- Student Life
- Health Safety Practices
- Monitoring and Response
- Facilities
- Communication

Our aim is to provide as much clarity as we can in an organized and readily understandable way. Our promise to you regarding our Safe Return planning is to communicate clearly and often, to share updates as we refine our plans, and to seek your feedback throughout. This will no doubt continue to be a very different academic year for us, but with our collective efforts to keep each other safe, we will see each other through to the end of this academic year.

Raymond J. Rice
Providing students with consistently high quality and meaningful learning experiences remains of the highest priority for us.

Due to major investments in classroom technology, several new Zoom rooms are available, allowing for flexible delivery options.

Flexible course offerings
UMPI will offer courses in five different modalities: distance synchronous learning, hybrid/blended, hyflex, on site classroom, or online. For details on these modalities, visit umpi.edu/academics/course-registration.

Lab protocols
Students in science labs will be able to participate in in-person lab procedures or access the laboratory experience, data, and assignments through a distance modality, as needed. For students in programs with intensive, hands-on lab training (such as MLT, PTA, and Exercise Science), labs may be conducted with fewer students and time frames may be shortened. Lab skills assessments may involve staggered appointments, a limited faculty-to-student ratio, and a requirement for PPE including face masks and gloves.

Class size limitations
Classroom occupancy has returned to normal levels as social distancing measures are not required at this time; however, should that change, classroom occupancy generally will be limited to the capacity allowed by appropriate social distancing. Blended and Hyflex classes may also utilize a rotation schedule identifying when students will be in the live classroom and when they will join over distance technologies such as Zoom video.

Seating changes
Classrooms are not set up for social distancing at this time. Should that need change, desks and chairs may be spaced at least 6 feet apart and some furniture may be removed from classrooms in order to ensure proper distancing.

Faculty office hours
All appointments with faculty should be arranged in advance and may be conducted via remote options (phone call, Zoom, etc.).
Life on campus will work a little differently this year, from move-in to departure. Whether you’re living in the residence halls, eating on campus, or preparing for the upcoming sports seasons, we have plans in place to ensure your safety.

**Vaccinations**

The University of Maine System requires COVID-19 vaccination of all students engaged in an on-campus experience this fall. Students who verify their status on the UMS online portal or get their first shot toward full immunity by Aug. 20 will remain eligible to participate in on-campus activities in the fall. Students also have the opportunity to request an exemption to this vaccine requirement for a documented medical contraindication or a sincerely held religious belief. Students may also participate in solely remote learning. Those who are exempted or are not yet fully vaccinated will be required to participate in asymptomatic testing.

**Phased return to campus**

Student move-in will occur Aug. 26-29; athletes will have different arrival dates and should refer to information they receive from Athletics.

Residential students who are exempted or not yet fully vaccinated will be required to be tested for COVID-19 upon arrival to campus.

Residents will then be quarantined in their room for 48-72 hours until a negative test result is received. Those who have a roommate will need to be cleared at the same time as their roommate, using the same procedure used last year. For students who live near campus, there will be an option to be tested prior to move-in, allowing them to return home to wait for test results. For Maine residents only, those who have been tested within 72 hours of move-in and provide a negative test result will not have to quarantine. However, if their roommate is in quarantine, they will have to quarantine with them regardless of test result status.

Each resident will be allowed to have 1 guest help them move into their residence hall room. They will be able to help students carry their items to their room and will then need to exit the buildings no later than 1 p.m. following the Welcome Back BBQ. All guests must wear masks and follow health and safety guidelines or they will be removed from the hall. Guests should not enter the building if they are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19. It’s very important that all guests follow any direction given by UMPI staff to ensure the safety and health of our community. Residents will receive additional information from the Housing and Residential Life staff.

**Housing plans**

Emerson Hall, Merriman Hall, and Skyway suites will provide general housing. Park Hall will be utilized for potential quarantine/isolation space as needed. This change will reduce residential capacity by 33%. In the residence halls, face coverings are to be worn at all times (exceptions include when students are in their own rooms, eating, drinking, brushing teeth, or showering). Residents should plan to bring their own face masks. Students will use assigned bathrooms. Off campus guests will not be permitted into any residence hall; however, residents are allowed to visit each other if they live in different buildings on
Any travel plans will need to be shared with Res Life staff; travel outside of Maine may require 14 days of quarantine and testing upon return.

Dining plans
Dining services will remain available in Kelley Commons and the Owl's Nest, though it will work a little differently. The main door to the cafeteria has returned to its status as both an entrance and exit, though those who would prefer can use the southeast door as an exit. Students will be able to go through the lunch line and pick their own foods and beverages but must wear face coverings while in line. There will be hand sanitation opportunities throughout the line. Seating in Kelley Commons is not currently socially distanced; should that change, messaging will go out to the campus community. Grab-and-go service in the Owl's Nest is still encouraged.

Athletic plans
In collaboration with the NCAA and North Atlantic Conference (NAC), the Athletics Program intends to move forward with its athletics programming with additional health and safety protocols in place. Sports seasons will return to full regular season schedules with conference playoffs. The Athletics Program will use the NCAA Return to Play protocols as a guideline, and will follow federal, state, and local regulations, for the health and safety of all athletes. Athletics will return to regular travel schedules while following state, federal, and NCAA guidance. In order to participate in athletics, all student athletes must follow the protocols put in place by the Athletics Program.

Health Services & Counseling
The Health Service Center will be available to triage students with COVID-19 symptoms as well as provide for other healthcare needs, such as sports physicals, medication management, and flu vaccine clinics. In addition, telemedicine and virtual counseling are available when needed. Patients can be seen as walk-ins or by appointment; temperature checks will be conducted and a list of COVID-related questions will be asked upon arrival. For those who are exhibiting COVID symptoms, Health Services has worked with the local hospital to put protocols in place for referrals.

Packing List:

Masks (bring at least 7, think of them as socks)
Thermometer (also isopropyl alcohol to clean after use)
Go Bag (Keep in a backpack/duffel bag or plastic container that is easy to wash)

- Enough clothes for 7 days and nights
- Medications
- Sanitary pads/tampons
- Toiletries
- Laptop/phone
- Chargers for all electronic devices
- Personal entertainment, e.g., tablet, handheld gaming, etc.

Cleaning items
- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap
- Disinfecting wipes

Hand sanitizer / Gloves / Other preferred personal safety items
HEALTH SAFETY PRACTICES

In order to prevent the potential spread of infection, we have implemented many protocols and daily practices.

While this means that campus spaces and how you operate in them may be different, it all contributes to the safest environment possible for our campus community.

Social distancing

At this time, social distancing measures are not in place. Should that change due to health and safety needs, those on campus may be asked to maintain a social distance of 6 feet from all faculty, staff, students, and visitors at all times and spaces throughout campus would be set up to support social distancing with seating spaced at least 6 feet apart and furniture rearranged or removed in some cases.

Face coverings

Face coverings will need to be worn indoors by everyone, regardless of vaccination status, while on campus. At this time, face coverings are not required when outdoors on university property, though they are strongly recommended outdoors when physical distancing is difficult or when large groups are involved. Please note that face shields, bandanas, and gaiters/buffs do not meet the University of Maine System’s definition of acceptable face coverings.

Disinfecting wipes

Disinfecting wipes will be available at strategic locations throughout campus for wiping down common spaces, classroom desks, and other frequently used items. All are encouraged to help with this effort to ensure surfaces are disinfected between use.

Hand sanitizer

Hand sanitizer stations will be located at all building entrances of facilities and in some classrooms. All members of campus should use them each time they enter and exit a space.

Hand washing

Individuals need to wash their hands often, with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing should especially be done after being in a public place, or after coughing or sneezing.
Paper towels in lieu of air dryers

To prevent unwanted circulating air, paper towels will be utilized in bathrooms instead of air hand dryers, with appropriate emptying of associated trash receptacles to take place on a regular basis.

Temperature checks

Employees, students, and any campus visitors should take their temperature and ensure that it is at or below 100.3°F before leaving their residence hall room or home and coming to campus.

Appointments on campus

In order to ensure the safety of everyone on the campus, all are encouraged to make appointments with individual faculty members, campus offices (i.e., Financial Aid, Student Records) PRIOR to visiting the specific office location. This will ensure that all safety measures are in place prior to the appointment, if an in-person meeting is required. Zoom and phone calls may be used to minimize the need to meet in-person.

Office protocols

Employees should conduct symptom monitoring every day before coming to work. Face coverings should be worn indoors in all university facilities, regardless of vaccination status. Meetings should be held via Zoom whenever possible. In conjunction with campus leadership and HR, remote work options may be considered to limit the number of people in the office at any given time. Travel limitations will be in place and those who leave the state will need to complete testing and quarantine protocols before being cleared to return to campus.

Health education

Health Services, HR, and Student Affairs staff will work to ensure that COVID-related information is provided to faculty, staff, and students. Employees have received a training and support guide detailing return to campus operations, and students will receive information through the Student Life Office.
We are committed to safeguarding our campus from infection and will conduct testing on a regular basis of those who are exempted or who are not yet fully vaccinated; others are encouraged to take part in voluntary weekly testing. We have plans in place so we can respond quickly and decisively should a case be confirmed.

Testing
At the beginning of the semester, all faculty, staff, and students who will have in-person campus experiences and are exempted or not yet fully vaccinated will be required to test and quarantine before moving about campus. Those traveling to campus from outside of Maine are required to have a negative COVID-19 test result (within the last 72 hours) before coming onto the campus for any reason.

UMPI then will conduct weekly COVID-19 asymptomatic testing of all campus community members who are exempted or who are not yet fully vaccinated and have in-person, on-campus experiences during the semester. Others are encouraged to take part in voluntary weekly testing.

Weekly testing will begin in August and continue through December.

Those who have had a positive COVID-19 test recently and have completed their isolation are exempt from testing for the 90 days following the date they received a positive test; documentation must be shown to be exempted from the testing.

Contingency plans
Should there be a confirmed case of COVID-19 on campus, contingency plans have been established for isolating the disease, ensuring the safety of others, and transitioning the campus to alternate operations if needed.

Quarantine/isolation plans
UMPI has set aside space in Park Hall for isolation and/or quarantine purposes. Students who need to be quarantined will be given a private room, and meal delivery will be coordinated for students during any quarantine days ensuring that all dietary requirements are met. Management of the space will be closely monitored, including the oversight of a heavy cleaning schedule.

Contact tracing
Tracing will be done to identify and isolate those who have come into contact with an individual who has a confirmed case of COVID-19 in order to best prevent further transmission. Those who are identified during the contact tracing will be required to quarantine for 10 days from the date they last interacted with the positive individual.
Plexiglass, signage, and directional arrows are some of the safety measures you may see on campus.

Campus cleaning protocols
All contact surfaces, such as door knobs, handrails, elevator buttons, and light switches, will be cleaned multiple times each day. Public bathrooms will be cleaned 3 times each day; residence hall bathrooms will be cleaned 4 to 6 times per day depending on building occupancy. Frequent cleaning of workspaces by all staff will be encouraged. Deep cleanings of classrooms will be completed between classes. Highly utilized items, such as fitness center equipment, will be wiped down before and after use. Facilities crew members will complete overnight detailed cleaning of all tables, chairs, bathrooms, etc.

Plexiglass barriers
Physical barriers may be installed in key locations around campus where people interact in close proximity, such as at the Gentile Hall front desk. When used, these barriers are meant to prevent exposure to respiratory droplets.

Signage
A variety of signage may be posted throughout campus to explain specific changes in practices and protocols should social distancing measures need to be reinstated, such as entrance only and exit only signs, and elevator signs indicating specific social distancing protocols.

Ventilation
All HVAC equipment has been serviced to verify proper working order and to increase outside air coming into the building to the maximum amount possible.
COMMUNICATION

Due to the complexity of institutional Safe Return planning—as well as the potential for things to change rapidly—it will be vitally important to share information with the campus community on a regular and ongoing basis.

Information will come to you in several different ways.

www.umpi.edu/return

This website will provide the most up-to-date information about Safe Return planning. Look to it for the latest messages to campus, FAQs, and links to campus and System resources.

Town hall meetings

At various points throughout the semester, campus leadership will host town hall meetings with faculty, staff, students, and sometimes parents and others to share information on planning and developments, and to receive feedback from attendees. These sessions will be conducted over Zoom video; invitations will be sent out over email to campus groups.

Social media

Important information also can be found on UMPI’s official Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages. These social media channels can serve as a helpful and convenient resource for campus and community members.
“Now, more than ever, ensuring that we are supporting your learning environment to the best of our abilities and providing the services that you need, is essential for our success as a community of teachers and learners. We all need to pay attention, listen, respond to, and support one another. At UMPI, we are dedicated to doing just that.”

- President Rice 3/20/20 message to campus