



DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

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September 30, 2020

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

Thank you for your continued commitment to keeping our students and our classrooms safe, engaging and learning-centered, whether you are teaching virtually or in-person. Our COVID-19 positivity rates remain manageable; fortunately, we have had a slow and tempered positivity rate which has allowed us to be responsive and stay-the-course thus far. It is important for me to share our campus response when we learn of a person who tests positive for COVID-19. It is my hope that as you have a better understanding of our processes, you will feel more safe and comfortable. And, it will allow you to support our students better.

I was fortunate to present at the Academic Leadership Forum last week and shared this [presentation](#). It provides a broad overview of our campus response plan to a positive case. I would like to highlight several processes that are particularly salient for your work.

A Division of Student Affairs Response Team meets daily to manage our situation at-hand. This is one team, in addition to President Pines' team and the Return to Campus Working Group, that works together to lead a comprehensive approach to respond, including the following:

- Campus testing efforts
- Contacting each person in our community who tests positive, as well as anyone who was exposed to a person testing positive
- Early Contact Identification Process
- Quarantine and Isolation (Q/I) Housing
- Case Management
- Medical/Health Support
- Food Delivery
- Transportation, as needed
- Mental Health Support
- HEAL Line Response
- Family Communication Response

As we have received a number of questions, I want to provide a bit more detail on some of these processes.

Positive Test Results

When someone tests positive, at either on-campus or off-campus testing locations:

- If an individual tests positive at a UMD testing event or the University Health Center (UHC), UHC medical staff will notify the person of their positive result by phone as soon as the results are received.
- For those tested off-campus, UHC medical staff will follow up with the positive case as soon as they become aware of the positive result by self-report, either through the HEAL Line or healthconcerns@umd.edu.

- UHC medical staff will contact every student, faculty or staff member who tests positive to begin the Early Contact Identification process to learn more about the person's overall health, as well as who may have been exposed.
- The person who tests positive must go into isolation for 10 days, preferably at their permanent home.
- The person who tests positive, either faculty, staff or student, may not come to class or campus in-person for at least 10 days, even if they have no symptoms.
- UHC medical staff will inform the person who tested positive when they can return to normal activity.
- As a reminder, faculty, staff or students who test positive off-campus must notify the UHC at 301.405.HEAL (301.405.4325).

Close Contacts

When UHC medical staff learn of someone who was a close contact - defined as someone who had a close, prolonged exposure - they do the following:

- Reach out to each close contact and notify them they must quarantine for 14 days, preferably at their permanent home. On-campus students can move to quarantine housing on-campus or return home. Off-campus students, faculty or staff should quarantine at home. Note that we will always work with students who have hardships and may not be able to return home.
- Inform close contacts that they may not come to class in-person for 14 days even if they have no symptoms.

Additional Contacts or Classroom Exposure

In addition to contacting all individuals who were close contacts, UHC or the Point of Contact for the college/division/unit, will also inform others who may have had some proximity, but not an exposure to the person who tested positive. For example, should you be teaching an in-person class, while you will not know the name of the student who tested positive, you would be notified that someone in your class tested positive and you should self-monitor your symptoms for 14 days; this will happen as long as you are not identified as a close contact. If you were a close contact, you would be asked to quarantine.

Quarantine and Isolation

We shared [this document](#) with parents and family members as a way to help them understand our processes and what to expect should their student test positive. This visual format is another tool that I hope is helpful to you in understanding our campus response plan. Students, faculty and staff who test positive, or have been exposed as a close contact, will be required to isolate or quarantine.

Our primary purpose in this pandemic is to keep our community as safe, healthy and as well as possible. If campus citizens do not follow UHC expectations for isolation and quarantine housing, and refuse to participate in our Early Contact Identification process, they will be referred to the appropriate office. Invariably, for our students, that would be the Office of Student Conduct.

Mental Health Support

We know this is an incredibly challenging time for everyone. If one of your students is struggling in any way, and in need of mental health support, please have them contact the Counseling Center at 301.314.7651 or counseling.umd.edu. The Counseling Center is continuing to offer all of its services in a tele-health format this semester. They are also providing additional support to all of our students in Q/I housing. On-call/emergency services are available to students on a 24/7 basis.

Parent Communication

We have also started the Family Communication Response Team, a dedicated call center managed by Parent & Family Affairs, to answer all parent and family concerns, at 301.314.8429. Parents who reach out to you or other campus units can be referred to this number for centralized follow-up.

Faculty Role

We are grateful for your powerful partnership in this pandemic. As a reminder, we hope that you will:

- Provide student support and reinforce healthy messages
- Help students understand the process or direct them to healthconcerns@umd.edu if they have questions
- Remind students and other colleagues of their responsibility to call the HEAL Line if they have been exposed or if they test positive
- Reinforce the requirement to quarantine (for exposure) or isolate (for positive test results)
- Reiterate to students that they cannot return to class for 14 days in quarantine or 10 days in isolation

Should you have any COVID-related faculty questions or concerns, please email healthconcerns@umd.edu.

I also recognize that you, too, are carrying so much during these complicated and complex times. I hope you are finding ways to take care of yourself and continue to do so. Should you need assistance please contact the [Faculty Staff Assistance Program](#), as part of the University Health Center. They support faculty with mental health questions and concerns, teach coping strategies and more.

I will continue to check-in with you regularly and remain available to support you in all ways possible. Please feel free to contact me at VPSA@umd.edu if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks for all you do to help keep our students healthy, safe and educated. We want to support you in all ways possible, too.

Sincerely,



Patty Perillo, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs