

UVM Safe and Healthy Return to Campus

Updated July 7, 2020 (Please note that this document is updated frequently to reflect changes in policy and procedures related to the COVID-19 pandemic).

Higher education institutions are an important component of Vermont's economy, workforce development system, culture and vitality. UVM, in partnership with the state of Vermont, aims to make Vermont a safe place to attend college during the COVID-19 public health emergency by establishing strict safety protocols. Employees and students must comply with this guidance to protect their own health and safety, as well as that of the greater UVM and Burlington communities. Those who do not observe these stipulations risk disciplinary action.

These protocols are in addition to, and not a substitute for, the State of Vermont's existing Work Safe Guidance. In the event these two documents contradict one another, this document supersedes the Work Safe Guidance. These guidelines aim to minimize the likelihood of an outbreak, and—if one occurs—reduce its severity.

This document was created in collaboration with the Vermont Department of Health, the Vermont Department of Public Service, the Vermont Agency of Education and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD).

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1. Decrease risk of individuals infected with COVID-19 from entering the campus through effective public health prevention.

- a. **Health Safety Contract:** All students shall [sign the Green and Gold Promise](#) (PDF).
- b. **Quarantine:** In order to protect the health and safety of students, faculty, staff and the community, UVM has implemented strict quarantine procedures for students returning to campus using one of the following health protocols:
 - **Home state:** If traveling to Vermont in a private vehicle without making a prolonged stop, individual must quarantine at home for 14 days immediately prior to traveling to Vermont (individuals may complete a shorter quarantine if they receive a negative COVID-19 test after day 7 in their home state and travel directly to Vermont without breaking the quarantine); OR
 - **In Vermont after public or multi-family transit to Vermont:** If traveling to Vermont with people from multiple households, via bus, rail or commercial airlines, individuals must quarantine for 14 days upon arrival to Vermont (after day 7 the individual may get a COVID-19 test and upon receiving a negative result, end their quarantine); OR
 - **Non-quarantine counties:** Students traveling to Vermont from a non-quarantine county as identified by the [Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development](#) on August 1, 2020, who travel in a private vehicle without making a prolonged stop, may arrive without completing a quarantine.

Students who quarantine in Vermont may do so in one of the following locations:

- At a private residence in Vermont, including the student's Vermont apartment (for off-campus students); OR
- At a lodging property in Vermont including hotels and short-term rentals; OR
- A residence hall, under the following conditions: Students will be required to quarantine in a designated location on campus and all meals will be provided. The quarantine shall be 7 days and will end if a negative COVID-19 test result is received after day 7. In order to protect students and others, students in quarantine must follow current

State of Vermont quarantine requirements. Residence hall quarantine will be available to students with residence hall contracts.

For students who have a positive test on day 7, isolation procedures and contact tracing will be immediately initiated as in section 3.

- c. **Health Screenings:** All students must complete a health screening upon campus arrival. This screening survey shall require an individual to verify that he or she has no symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea). A temperature check will be conducted by the individual at home or a non-contact temperature check be conducted by UVM upon arrival.
- d. **Curtail Visitors:** Students may have two guests with them on move-in day. The guest must meet State of Vermont travel restrictions. UVM will limit other outside visitors and have no visitors to residence halls after move-in is completed.
- e. **Testing:** UVM will ensure that all students (no matter where they come from) will undergo a COVID-19 testing protocol. This testing requirement does not eliminate the need for quarantine. UVM will continue testing throughout the semester.
 - i. All students from a quarantine county as identified by ACCD's travel policy, or out-of-state students from any county who arrive in Vermont through mass transportation (commercial air travel, bus, train), must have a "zero day" test conducted within 48 hours of arrival at campus. Those receiving tests 48 hours before coming to campus must travel directly to campus in personal vehicle.
 - ii. All students (including Vermonters) must have a second test done at day 7.
- f. **Travel:** All institutional out-of-state travel shall be suspended except with institutional leadership permission. Students should only travel to and from non-quarantine counties pursuant to the ACCD travel policy or plan to quarantine. Upon return from any out-of-state travel, whether institutional or personal, students and employees will follow ACCD travel quarantine policy.
- g. **Change Academic Schedule:** UVM has modified the academic calendar to reduce the instances of students traveling outside of Vermont and returning to the campus, eliminating our October one-day recess and holding classes Monday and Tuesday of Thanksgiving week. The University will complete in-person learning before Thanksgiving and conduct the last week of classes and final exams remotely.

- h. **Reduce on-campus events:** To protect the health and safety of our community, UVM has cancelled on-campus programming from outside speakers for the fall semester, including events that would encourage large crowds such as parents' weekend and alumni weekend, which will be celebrated virtually. All on campus events will comply with ACCD event guidance.
2. **Decrease transmission of COVID-19 among staff and students once on campus through effective public health measures.**
- a. **Face Coverings:** Face coverings are required to be worn by all faculty, staff, students and visitors when in the presence of others. UVM is providing all faculty, staff and students a supply of reusable face coverings that they are expected to maintain.
 - b. **Health Screenings:** All students and employees must complete a daily health screening prior to interacting with anyone on the campus, including going to class, going to a dining hall, or participating in any campus activity or any work setting. This screening survey shall require an individual to verify that the individual has no symptoms of COVID-19 (including fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea).
 - c. **Contact Tracing Journal:** Students and employees are encouraged to keep a contact journal of other people with whom there has been close contact each day. This would make it easier to make contact with these individuals so they can take proper precautions to prevent further spread of COVID-19 should a UVM student or employee with whom they have been in contact become ill.
 - d. **Hand Hygiene:** Students, faculty and staff will have easy and frequent access to soap and water or hand sanitizer. Handwashing or hand sanitization is required frequently.
 - e. **Cleaning and Disinfecting:** All common spaces (when open to students, faculty and staff) and equipment, including bathrooms, frequently touched surfaces and doors, tools and equipment, and vehicles will be cleaned regularly and, when possible, prior to transfer from one person to another, in accordance with CDC guidance.
 - f. **Physical Distancing:** Students, faculty and staff must observe strict social distancing of 6 feet while on campus. The occupancy of designated common areas will be limited, so that occupants maintain strict social distancing of no less than 6 feet per individual.
 - g. **Dining Halls:** Staff and students will be required to wear masks. Staff will be sanitizing and disinfecting dining spaces more frequently, including closing

residential dining halls for one hour between meal periods to deeply sanitize spaces. Seating will be re-configured and the flow of traffic will be adjusted in order to abide by social distancing requirements. New technology, including touchless pay, and expanded mobile ordering and delivery will be used to every extent possible.

There will also be several programmatic changes to increase student flexibility and options. First-time, first-year students who start on the unlimited meal plan may choose any of the three meal plans within the first two weeks of classes. Take-out options, including pre-packaged items will be available in retail locations and in the residential dining halls. Self-service areas (salad bar, ice cream, etc.) will be transitioned to plated offerings to reduce the number of surfaces touched. There will be no re-useable beverage containers, but we are reviewing ways to adjust EcoWare (take-out container) program to ensure safety and promote sustainability.

- h. **Classrooms:** Students and faculty are required to wear face covering or other PPE in the classrooms, labs, studios, etc. Students, faculty, and staff are expected to observe strict social distancing of 6 feet while on campus. The occupancy of classrooms, labs, lounges, study spaces, meeting rooms, and other designated common areas have been adjusted so that students, faculty, staff and visitors maintain strict social distancing of no less than 6 feet per individual.

To meet the needs of all our students, we are offering **two fall 2020 semester options for undergraduate students.**

1. **The on-campus option: return to campus with a mix of in-person and online (asynchronous)/remote (synchronous) instruction.**
2. **The at-home option: remain at home with online/remote instruction.**

Course Delivery Modes

- We do not expect most in-person classes to change their meeting time, but classes will be assigned new, larger classroom spaces to allow for 6-foot distancing. These classes will be designated **INPR**.
- Many classes will also be shifted to “mixed” instruction (**MIXD**) as an adjustment to smaller classroom capacities following distancing guidelines. These classes will be divided into 2-3 smaller groups to allow for distanced classroom seating, with each group attending class in-person once a week. When not in-person, remaining groups will have online asynchronous activities and lectures or will join synchronous remote class meetings. Students choosing the at-home option will be able to register for “remote” sections of some mixed instruction classes.
- Some classes will be designated as **REMT** indicating “remote instruction.” These classes will have an assigned meeting time, but will meet live online, instead of in-person.

- Finally, some classes will be listed as **ONL**, and will follow an asynchronous online format with online discussions, activity, and content, but no scheduled meetings.
- i. **Residence Hall Density/ Reduction of Density (“De-densification”):** We will eliminate all triple and quad rooms from our housing inventory. Students living in the residence halls will be obligated to adhere to all health and safety guidelines, such as wearing masks at all times outside of their own room, limiting the size of gatherings, cleaning after they use common spaces, and not allowing out-of-town guests into the residence halls.
 - j. **Athletics:** UVM is working in partnership with the NCAA and the America East conference to decide how athletic programs will need to be altered to comply with state and federal safety guidance. Additional sports-specific guidance for college-level sports will be forthcoming.
 - k. **Performing Arts:** Only performing arts that allow for social distancing will occur. Any performances shall comply with ACCD guidance on events.
 - l. **Protect At-Risk Faculty, Staff and Students:** We are implementing strategies and policies to address the needs of faculty, staff and students who have underlying health issues.
- 3. Quickly identify individuals with COVID-19 and put containment procedures in place to minimize the impact on students, staff and education.**
- a. **Adequate Health Services:** UVM is fortunate to be affiliated with UVM Medical Center, a state-of-the-art healthcare facility that is adjacent to our campus. Additionally, UVM Student Health and Well Being services is prepared with adequate personal protective equipment, access to testing capacity and a COVID coordination plan.
 - b. **Isolation Procedures:** UVM has both an isolation and quarantine plan in place in the event of a positive test and multiple exposures. This includes having an arrangement in place to accommodate 5 percent of the college on-campus population in isolation and/or quarantine.
 - c. **Contact Tracing:** In the event of a positive case, the Vermont Department of Health will coordinate and conduct contact tracing.