

Fall 2020 Reopening Plan

University of
Massachusetts
Amherst **BE REVOLUTIONARY™**



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Fall 2020 Reopening Plan

June 29, 2020

Dear Campus Community,

Having completed a thorough planning process that drew upon the insight of 100 faculty, staff, and students across six working groups, and having absorbed feedback from nearly 10,000 of our community members, I write to announce the operating plan for the University of Massachusetts Amherst for the fall 2020 semester.

Our abrupt and disruptive departure from campus in March as a result of COVID-19, and the transition to remote learning, made us all deeply appreciate the vibrant bonds of our campus community. Students who choose to attend UMass Amherst do so not only for the quality of the faculty and the academic programs, but also for the immersive experience, which offers opportunities for enrichment that can be undertaken with a diverse group of peers. As we approach the fall, I want you to know that in this time of great uncertainty we are committed to providing a high-quality education that is conducive to learning and academic progress, whatever the mode of instruction, and with minimal delays. As best we can – and there are severe limitations in the midst of this pandemic – we will strive to sustain the community connections that represent UMass at its best.

That being said, as students evaluate how they wish to pursue their studies at UMass this fall, it is important to understand that life on campus during fall 2020 will not be anything resembling normal college life.

The bottom line is this: While all courses that do not require physical presence on campus will be offered remotely this fall, ***all undergraduate students who have reserved on-campus housing for the upcoming semester, and for whom there is space available, are invited to live on campus under strict public health behavioral restrictions.***

As was previously announced, the semester will begin August 24, with classes held on Labor Day, the second Monday in October, and Veterans Day, and will conclude November 20, at which time students will be expected to move out of campus residence halls. Final exams will be conducted remotely after Thanksgiving.

The decision to invite first-year, transfer, and returning undergraduate students to live on campus this fall was informed in part by the overwhelming feedback from students that they want to pursue their studies here on campus – and indeed intended to seek out rental units in the area even if residence halls

were not reopened. For students who choose to reside in on-campus housing or expect to spend any time on campus, our standards will be exacting. Students must agree not only to the standard Code of Student Conduct, but also to a set of protocols outlined in *The UMass Agreement*, a commitment that they will be required to sign. The protocols students must adhere to will include but are not limited to strict physical distancing, wearing face coverings outside personal living spaces, limiting social contacts to a minimal number of people per day, the prohibition of guests in residence halls, subjecting themselves to virus testing on demand, daily self-monitoring and reporting, assisting with contact tracing, and limiting travel away from the immediate campus area for work and/or emergencies only.

Students who choose to reside in campus residence halls or return to the area to live in off-campus housing must acknowledge that doing so will not guarantee that they will be able to take in-person classes. In fact, it is highly likely that most, if not all, of their classes will be conducted remotely. Only essential face-to-face labs, studios, performance, and other courses involving hands-on work will be conducted on campus and in-person. These courses have already been identified by deans, department heads, chairs, and faculty with priority placed on courses involving seniors so as to not impede their progress toward degree completion. All other courses will be delivered remotely.

Graduate courses, likewise, will be conducted remotely with the exception of essential face-to-face labs, studios, performance, and other courses involving hands-on work. Advanced graduate students who are engaged in laboratory research will continue to have their access to lab space reviewed and approved by the relevant faculty, department, dean, and the Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement.

Graduate students, like undergraduate students, must also adhere to the standard Code of Student Conduct and agree to the protocols of *The UMass Agreement* described above.

A testing, isolation, and contact tracing protocol will be in place for students, faculty, and staff prior to the start of the semester. All students accessing campus will be tested before moving into housing or participating in any university programming. In addition, students will be subject to surveillance testing and will also be tested if they demonstrate any symptoms of COVID-19. Given the prevalence of the virus in the general population, it is expected that a number of students will test positive for COVID-19 while remaining asymptomatic. As is required under CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines, those who test positive for the virus, even those who are asymptomatic, will be required to self-isolate. Students who have been determined through contact tracing to have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive will also be required to self-quarantine. UMass public health personnel will determine the length of isolation or quarantine required based on the circumstances of each case. Compliance with these requirements is a condition for returning to and remaining on campus.

We certainly understand that not all students will want to live or spend time on campus under such conditions, and no students will be required to do so. We strongly encourage all those who are at high risk for COVID-19 to not come to campus, unless they regard the risk on campus to be less than the alternative; we realize that some of our students have home situations that are not ideal for minimizing the risk of infection. Similarly, we ask students and families who do not want to assume the risk of a populous campus in the middle of a pandemic to stay home and take their courses remotely. Those students will be offered a robust remote curriculum as well as advising and other academic support to facilitate their academic success.

Opening the campus before an effective vaccine is widely available requires considerable commitment to community health by students and the university faculty, staff, and administration. While campus officials will follow all federal, state, and local regulations and guidelines to minimize the spread of the virus, students and families should understand that we cannot eliminate the risk of infection altogether. The public health risk from the novel coronavirus pandemic is real. It is known to spread very quickly via person-to-person transmission. If a high incidence of COVID-19 develops anytime during the semester on campus or in the surrounding towns, we may be forced to shift to an entirely remote mode of operation, with the closure of residence halls and campus facilities, as happened in March 2020.

A great many details still need to be worked out as we move into the implementation phase of our reopening plan, and we are committed to updating you regularly. More information, including FAQs on a number of topics, can be found on our [reopening website](#).

I am truly grateful for the hard work and dedication of every member of our campus community who participated in our planning process and for the robust and thoughtful input received from so many of our faculty, staff, students, and parents. By coming together to confront the remarkable challenges before us, we have demonstrated collectively what it means to be part of the UMass Amherst community.

Wishing you a healthy and happy rest of the summer.

Sincerely,

Chancellor Kumble R. Subbaswamy

2020 Reopening Plan: Health and Safety

The university is using the best science and public health information available to protect members of the campus community; efforts are focused on mitigating the risk of infection and spread of the virus. We are relying upon the guidance and direction of the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC), local, state, and federal health and medical professionals in setting our campus reopening and return to campus plans, and in determining the elements of our reopening and return to campus plans.

Our newly created **Public Health Promotion Center** will serve as the campus coordinating and operational hub for COVID-19 mitigation efforts. Its focus is to positively influence public health behaviors, provide critical health screening, and monitor protocols to maintain the health and wellness of our campus community.

As part of these efforts, we are implementing a multi-layered approach to deter the spread of the virus, help protect our campus, and allow us to rapidly respond when faculty, staff, or students present symptoms or test positive for the virus.

Fall 2020: A Multi-Layered Approach to Campus Health and Safety

1. The Public Health Promotion Center

The university is taking a leading and innovative approach by creating a Public Health Promotion Center (PHPC) to positively influence the public health behaviors surrounding COVID-19 and provide critical health screening and monitoring protocols to maintain the health and wellness of our campus community. The PHPC will serve as the central coordinating and operational center for COVID-19 and focus on the following: asymptomatic testing (symptomatic testing will be conducted at University Health Services); contact tracing; coordinating isolation and quarantine; flu vaccinations; and communication outreach focused on health promotion with public health ambassadors.

2. Public Health Promotion Measures

- Students will be required to sign *The UMass Agreement* in regard to social distancing and other public health practices.
- Face coverings are required in classrooms, workspaces, and all other common areas, indoors and in any outdoor situation where social distancing is not possible.
- Appropriate barriers – plexiglass and other similar materials – will be established in high-volume areas.
- Sanitation and cleaning will be enhanced in buildings throughout the campus, and adequate hand sanitizer products will be made available in all common spaces (lobbies, lounges, academic learning centers, and classrooms).
- UMass Dining operations will be modified to meet new state requirements for cleaning, social distancing, and customer limits. More than 30 campus locations will be revamped. The plan includes new grab-and-go sites, outdoor dining tents and mobile ordering at some retail locations.

- Workplaces, meeting rooms, and research laboratories will have modified occupancy. Additionally, residence halls may have modified occupancy.
- Students will follow classroom operating guidelines that include:
 - Requiring students/faculty to watch an education video prior to the first day of classes on the public health measures in place for the classrooms/laboratories
 - Require students/faculty to wipe down chairs, other commonly touched surfaces, etc. at the start of every class
 - Require face coverings in class
 - No eating or drinking in class
 - Assigned seating, where appropriate

3. Daily Screening for All

- Faculty, students, and staff will use either the My UMass app or another application.
- Faculty, students, and staff must conduct symptom monitoring every day before coming to campus or leaving their residence hall room.
- A student who does not live in UMass housing must be free of any symptoms related to COVID-19 to be on campus or participate in activities on campus.

4. Testing

- In line with current, best scientific practices, UMass will prioritize diagnostic testing and will continue to follow the development of antibody testing for potential use.
- UMass will execute a screening and testing strategy that mitigates community spread through early identification.
- Individuals coming to campus will be tested prior to arrival.
- Individuals who have any of the symptoms related to COVID-19 will be promptly tested by University Health Services. Individuals who are determined to be a close contact of an individual testing positive will also receive testing.
- Infection rates will be monitored on campus and in the surrounding communities.

5. Contact Tracing

- UMass is expanding its case management team, using all relevant departments that provide contact tracing, support services, and coordination of quarantine and isolation. This team will be trained and available to support the campus community.
- To help determine the risk of potential exposure to others on campus, the UMass Public Health Team will conduct contact tracing with any campus individual who has tested positive.
- The UMass Public Health Team will have a dedicated phone number and caller ID, and will actively promote “Answer the Call” to help protect the UMass community.

6. Isolation and Quarantine

The CDC defines **isolation** as separating sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick, and **quarantine** as separating and restricting the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

- Our plan for UMass residence halls for fall 2020 is focused on COVID-19 conditions, meaning we have identified quarantine and isolation locations for our on-campus residential community and will de-densify residential spaces to provide housing that

is as safe as possible.

- The university is committed to supporting all students during any required isolation and quarantine. This includes contact tracing, academic support, health services, and counseling services.
- All students living on campus will be required to have an [isolation and quarantine plan](#). For those students who can travel in a private vehicle, we strongly recommend isolation and quarantine in the comfort of your own home. For those students living on-campus and cannot travel home, the university will have dedicated isolation and quarantine space.
- Students living off campus will be encouraged to have an [isolation and quarantine plan](#). The university will provide support services in your off-campus location or at your home. The university will not provide on-campus isolation and quarantine space.
- All students in isolation and quarantine, both on- and off-campus, will receive a daily wellness call.
- Students in isolation or quarantine will be encouraged to continue their coursework remotely.
- The university Public Health Team and/or local board of health have legal authority to issue isolation or quarantine orders, and such orders must be followed at all times.

7. Required Education for All

- COVID-19 safety training is mandatory and includes instruction on physical distancing, wearing of face coverings, hand hygiene, and sanitation.
- A campus-wide approach is being developed to ensure consistent messaging.

8. High-risk Individuals Are Encouraged to Continue Remote Work and Study

2020 Reopening Plan: Teaching and Learning

All undergraduate students who have reserved on-campus housing, for whom there is space available, are invited to live on campus under strict public health behavioral restrictions. However, a majority of the fall 2020 curriculum will be fully remote, with only essential labs, studios, performance, and hands-on courses offered in-person and focused on the upper-level curriculum to provide seniors with timely progress toward degree completion.

Some students who live on campus may have a fully remote curriculum, a factor they should consider in their decision whether to come to campus.

The university's priority is to provide students with a high-quality educational experience that enables them to continue their academic progress with minimal delays or disruptions. We are committed to providing a robust curriculum as well as advising and other academic supports to facilitate students' academic success.

We will also provide faculty with the instructional technology resources and guidance they need to teach in a fully online format. Faculty interactions with students are a key element in students' engagement with the course material and their sense of connection to their classmates, professors, and the campus community.

- **Academic Calendar**

The Academic Calendar will begin August 24 and conclude November 20, with classes held on Labor Day, the second Monday in October, and Veterans Day. Students will be strongly encouraged to remain on or near campus until the Thanksgiving recess, after which they will not return. Final exams will be conducted remotely. Faculty teaching face-to-face courses will be asked to work with students who are unable to make it to campus by August 24 (e.g., because of an apartment lease starting September 1, a summer job, etc.)

- **Course Format**

Face-to-Face

These are courses that have been designated by colleges/departments as face-to-face and essential for delivery in the fall. These include labs, studios, and performance and hands-on courses that are required for degree pathways, licensure, or accreditation. To ensure social distancing, some face-to-face courses may have students attending on alternate days and learning remotely on other days, as determined by the instructor.

Remote

These are courses with no face-to-face instruction. Technology (e.g., Zoom, Moodle) will help engage students and deliver the curriculum, with a combination of synchronous engagement (i.e. designated class meeting times) and asynchronous engagement (i.e., student learning occurring on the students' timeline). Faculty will make accommodations for students for whom synchronous engagement is difficult (e.g., international or in other times zones).

- **Graduate Students**

All graduate-level courses will be offered remotely except for the approved, essential face-to-face courses. Some graduate programs may offer their entire curriculum remotely for fall 2020. All oral

exams, including comprehensive exams and dissertation and thesis defenses, will be conducted remotely. Questions about registration and enrollment should be directed to the Graduate School's student service center and international graduate students should contact the International Programs Office with questions related to visas, travel, and employment.

- **Labs, Studios, Performance, and Hands-on Essential Face-to-Face Courses**

The essential labs, studios, performance, and hands-on courses have been identified by deans, department heads, chairs, and faculty, and focus on upper-level courses so as not to impede students' progress toward degree completion. Not all labs, studios, performance, and hands-on courses will be offered in-person this fall. Students will be able to see in their SPIRE course schedule whether their courses will be offered remotely or face-to-face.

- **Classrooms and Schedules**

Classroom capacities will be limited to adhere to social distancing guidelines. Additional sections of courses may be added to reduce class sizes. Course schedules will be adjusted to increase time between classes to 30 minutes to reduce interactive foot traffic on campus and provide time for increased cleaning of lab and classroom spaces when needed. Students will be encouraged to be patient and flexible regarding classroom assignments and course schedules.

- **Options for Students Who Choose Not to Come to Campus**

Students who have an underlying medical condition or feel unsafe coming to campus and have face-to-face course(s) in their fall schedule should meet remotely with their advisor so their schedule can be adjusted to only include fully remote courses. Students who are seeking a residential experience but are uncomfortable coming to the Amherst campus have the option of applying for housing on the [Mount Ida Campus](#) in Newton, Mass. All health and safety protocols on the main campus will be in effect in Newton, but the total residential population will be limited by available housing to less than 500 students. All courses beyond essential face-to-face courses for on-site programs (e.g., Veterinary Technology) will be offered remotely. For more information, view the [Mount Ida Campus housing application](#).

- **Advising and Student Support Services**

All academic advising will be performed remotely, either by phone or use of another platform (e.g., Zoom). All faculty office hours for students in their courses, advising, or other consultative purposes will be performed remotely. The Learning Resource Center will provide remote services (e.g., supplemental instruction, tutoring). See "Research and Libraries" section for information related to library and study space access.

2020 Reopening Plan: Campus Life

Students choose to attend UMass Amherst not only for the quality of the faculty and the academic programs, but also for the immersive living and learning experience, which offers a wealth of enriching co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities shared among a diverse group of peers.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the university is now balancing our immersive residential experience with the health and well-being of the entire campus community. Given this situation, campus life will be a different experience in the fall, with all members of the community playing an important role in mitigating the infection and spread of the virus.

Students facing hardship resulting from COVID-19 should contact the [Dean of Students Office](#).

The UMass Agreement

All students coming to campus will be required to sign *The UMass Agreement*, a commitment to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on our campus. This agreement emphasizes each student's role in actively protecting the health and safety of every member of our campus and local communities.

Students are encouraged to limit their travel to the local area. Students who travel outside of a certain mileage range will be required to report their travel and possibly quarantine upon return.

The following portions of the Code of Student Conduct allows for adjudication of alleged violations:

- The university reserves the right to take action based on any student conduct, regardless of location.
- Existing applicable policies:
 - Reckless behavior
 - Failure to comply
 - Disruptive behavior
 - Violation of university policies and regulations

Due to the serious impact of breaches to public safety, students can be removed from campus and will continue their education remotely, until their case is completed.

New Students Orientation and Transition Events

New Student Transitions is exploring options for in-person gatherings and activities for small groups. Incoming students will continue to meet in person and virtually with the orientation groups formed over the summer. These transition groups will work to help new students adjust to university life, and will be staffed by resident assistants (RAs), peer mentors (PMs), and others.

- RAs and PMs will be available online and will be part of the transition for first-year students.
- Residential Life anticipates creating micro-communities. First-year students will be assigned to small groups who live together in a residential community. These student groups will explore campus together to find their classes and locate campus resources, and participate in weekly activities to assist them in getting to know each other and transition successfully to campus.
- Graduate student orientation will be available asynchronously on the [Graduate School's website](#) the first week of August.

- Information about asynchronous and synchronous TA training sessions will also be available on the website by the first week of August.

Residential Life

Residential Life is working to accommodate as many students as possible in the room selection process. It has surveyed students about their willingness to live with a roommate and will make every effort to create as many doubles as our occupancy guidelines allow. The university will confirm the process for room assignments after July 1, 2020.

Residential Academic Programs (RAPs)

- RAP housing will be confirmed when assignments are released. In most cases, RAPs will remain in the designated residence hall, but it is possible some may be relocated.
- RAP courses: If a student held a spot in a RAP and is enrolled in the affiliated RAP course, they can remain in the RAP course even if they are not living on campus.
- With regard to roommates, RAP students will follow the same process outlined for all students.

The Move-In Process

The residence hall move-in process will be spaced out over a multi-day period with very few early arrivals.

- Two family members or helpers per student will be allowed, and all move-in participants must wear a face covering and gloves. Students will be directed to pack much less for their residence hall room and to estimate for 12 weeks of residency rather than the whole year.
- Additional details about fall move-in will be shared as soon as possible.

Life in the Residence Halls

Although residence hall living will look a bit different than it has in the past, we are committed to providing an experience that builds a sense of belonging within our community. Final plans are still being developed and include the following:

- Bathroom cleaning schedules will be managed very differently, including frequent deep cleaning, established bathroom schedules, and posted approved occupancy numbers.
- Pedestrian flow will change to minimize contact, with students required to follow directives for walkways, stairwells, and lounges, and to abide by occupancy restrictions on elevators.
- No guests are allowed until further notice. A guest is defined as someone who does not live in the residence hall. Two family members or helpers can help with move-in and move-out.
- Students will experience limited face-to-face contact with staff and peers.
- Staff will only meet with individuals or small groups; however, they will maximize virtual contact with students.
- Staff support will be on hand for 24/7 operation of the residence halls, including availability of both facilities and residence education staff.
- Security desks will be staffed.
- Services and Service Desk operations will be adjusted. Students should only order essential packages for delivery, such as books and medicine.
- If students have requested fall on-campus housing and are notified that they are not eligible for fall on-campus housing, a plan will be developed to assign on-campus housing for the spring semester. Students who are notified that they are not eligible for fall on-campus housing should only pursue off-campus housing if they plan to live off campus for the entire academic year.

International Students: First-Year and Domestic Exchange

- If a first-year international student is waiting for a VISA, the university will provide on-campus housing when they are able to travel to campus later in the fall.
- Visiting international students enrolled at the university from other colleges via domestic exchange who can come to campus are eligible for on-campus housing.

Remote Learning

Remote learning is new for most students. The university will offer regular online workshops about successful remote learning as part of the Student Success Toolkit Series. The Learning Resource Center (LRC) will continue to provide supplemental instruction for the context of remote learning. Additionally, instructors are engaged in teaching and learning resources to best deliver remote courses.

- For fall 2020, the Five College Consortium will be restricted to enrollment in fully remote courses at each of the campuses.

Student Engagement and Leadership

Student Engagement and Leadership will provide quality opportunities for student involvement. Activities and programs will create balance with the rigor of academic pursuits. There will be restrictions on traditional student group activities and programming due to federal, state and university guidelines. Small, in-person meetings and gatherings will be limited, with increased use of virtual platforms for events and meetings.

- Staff will continue to advise, train, and support students involved in Registered Student Organizations (RSOs). Staff will be available by appointment only for face-to-face meetings, and all meetings must follow current social distancing guidelines. Most event planning, training, and RSO support can take place remotely through Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or other formats.
- The university is still evaluating whether student-run businesses can operate in the fall.
- All First Amendment rights will be supported by the university with an emphasis on working with student organizers to educate, strategize, and execute COVID-19 safety protocols to mitigate spread of the virus.
- Greek Life recruitment will be conducted. Most, if not all, chapter programming will be held remotely. Directors and house corporation representatives have been meeting regularly with the university to review and revise house and chapter operations so they are in line with public health. This group is examining occupancy, health precautions, move-in processes, and other aspects of day-to-day operations.
- UMass Athletics is working closely with the NCAA, state, and university authorities to complete plans for programming this fall. Decisions regarding spectators at sporting events have not yet been made.

Off-Campus Student Life

- Given the early start date for the fall semester, if a student's lease does not begin until September 1, 2020 the student should contact their faculty about missing face-to-face classes for the first two weeks to make needed academic accommodations.
- The university will provide contact tracing, academic support, health services, and counseling services to all students who contract COVID-19, both on and off campus. However, UMass will not provide off-campus students with on-campus isolation and quarantine space.

Cultural and Identity Centers

Cultural Centers and affinity spaces, including the Stonewall Center, Veterans Resource Center, Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, and Men and Masculinities Center, will be open in accordance with public health guidelines for social distancing. All Advocacy, Inclusion, and Support programs will continue to provide programs and services through a mix of in-person and virtual formats.

Disability Support Services

[Disability Services](#) will work with students to put accommodations in place before and during the first few weeks of the semester. Students are encouraged to expedite this process by registering with Disability Services between July 1 and August 1 via online registration.

Services available include working with students who need a residence hall room and those who need accommodations due to the shift to remote learning.

To register with Disability Services:

1. [Submit this intake form online.](#)
2. Scan documentation to [Box at UMass](#) and share with notify@admin.umass.edu.
3. Students will receive a confirmation email to set up an appointment.

Wellness Support Services

Counseling

The Center for Counseling and Psychological Health (CCPH) is in the process of developing special services for students during this challenging time. To ensure safety and accessibility, CCPH will continue to offer teletherapy throughout the fall 2020 semester. Additionally, students will have daily opportunities to speak with a counselor for both urgent and routine concerns. For the most up-to-date information, visit the [CCPH website](#).

Additional virtual opportunities will be offered to cultivate healthy habits and develop mental health and wellbeing strategies, including the following:

- **Koru Mindfulness Course** (free): Koru Mindfulness offers an introduction to mindfulness in everyday life. In this free, four-session course open to all students, you will learn the skill of mindfulness and build the habit of using it on a regular basis. Beyond simply decreasing your stress, this course offers an approach for finding greater satisfaction in your daily life.
- **Positivity and Relaxation Training** (1-credit course): This nine-week program, based out of the Benson Henry Institute for Mind Body Medicine, helps participants develop a self-care routine to manage stress, improve their outlook, and enhance quality of life. It teaches participants a variety of mind-body practices and self-care interventions.
- **Peer Health – Educational Workshops in RAPS**: These one-hour workshops are delivered to first- year students on wellbeing via peer health coaches. They serve as an entry to other wellbeing opportunities and trainings.

Recreation

Campus Recreation will take a phased approach to reopening, with services, activities, events, and access to facilities dependent on restrictions in place during the fall. We are committed to offering creative online and in-person ways for students to remain physically active. Possibilities include outdoor group fitness to allow a greater numbers of participants while maintaining physical distancing guidelines. We will stream fitness classes live through IM Leagues and offer special online tournaments and challenges.

The Recreation Center will be open and activities that comply with public health guidelines will be allowed. Safety measures will include capacity restrictions; elimination of activities that require physical person-to-person contact or touching the same equipment without sanitizing (e.g., pick-up basketball); limits to pool usage; and restriction of locker room use.

It is unlikely that Club Sport teams will travel in the fall. We will await guidance on best practices from organizations such as the National Intramural and Recreation Sport Association to determine these decisions. Workouts and team activities that adhere to safety guidelines for the campus will be encouraged.

The Mount Ida Campus

Students who either do not have access to the main campus in Amherst or are seeking a residential option beyond the main campus may apply for housing on the [Mount Ida Campus](#) in Newton, Mass. All health and safety protocols on the main campus will be in effect in Newton, but the total residential population will be limited by available housing to less than 500 students. All courses beyond essential face-to-face courses for on-site programs (e.g., Veterinary Technology) will be offered remotely. For more information, visit the [Mount Ida Campus website](#).

Center for Early Education and Care (CEEC)

The CEEC hopes to reopen in mid-July, though no official date has been set. When the date is finalized, CEEC will contact families and update the community.

The center will follow all state, local, and university guidelines for child care centers, including extensive cleaning and enhanced health and safety protocols. Parents and families will receive guidance on new policies and procedures in advance of the center's opening.

2020 Reopening Plan: Tuition and Financial Aid

The cost of a UMass Amherst education includes tuition and required fees, with additional room and board charges for students who live on campus. Tuition will be set by the Board of Trustees this summer, but system President Marty Meehan has announced that he will recommend to the board a tuition freeze for in-state undergraduate students at Academic Year 2019-20 rates for the upcoming academic year of 2020-21.

- **Tuition for Fall 2020**

Tuition for fall 2020 will not be altered based on the mode of instruction. Courses that will be offered remotely will be of the same caliber and quality, taught by the same outstanding UMass Amherst faculty. The cost to provide instruction (faculty salaries, advising, etc.) does not change based on the mode of instruction. In some cases, the cost of providing remote instruction is actually higher than in person, as a result of the technological resources required. Students will be provided the same resources and support services, such as the Learning Resource Center and academic advising, regardless of modality.

- **Room and Board**

Students who opt not to come to campus for fall 2020 will not be charged for room and board, which accounts for nearly half of the total cost for a full-time, in-state residential student.

- **Financial Aid**

Financial aid awards will be posted on students' SPIRE accounts in early July. Students should monitor their SPIRE "To Do" list to make sure that all required tasks are completed. Once awards begin being posted, awards will continue weekly as new FAFSAs come in and as students complete their To Do Lists. Unfortunately, the resources available to provide institutional (non-federal) financial aid have been severely reduced by the pandemic. UMass suffered significant losses in the spring, and we are facing a budget shortfall in the new fiscal year. Students experiencing a financial hardship should reach out to the [Financial Aid Services](#) or the [Dean of Students Office](#) to be connected with available resources.

Additional information regarding tuition and fees is available by visiting the [Undergraduate Admissions website](#).

2020 Reopening Plan: Research and Libraries

UMass Amherst is reopening research labs, onsite library services and access, and other facilities for research and creative activities based on the state plan and requirements for [Reopening Massachusetts](#). This reopening is taking place in stages, as the university certifies that the Sector Specific Safety Standards for [Laboratories](#) and [Office Spaces](#) are met. Success requires the engagement of faculty, students, and staff in our shared efforts to protect health and safety while resuming our important research activities.

The university is informed by national best practices, and continues working on more detailed guidance to meet these standards. Reopening requires Research and Library Operating Plans proposed by faculty and approved by departments and deans, in coordination with the Office of Research and Engagement.

1. Consistent with Reopening Massachusetts, activities should continue remotely as much as possible. Note that the state has issued a “Safer at Home Advisory” including guidance that “People over the age of 65 and people who have underlying health conditions – who are at high risk for COVID-19 – should continue to stay home except for essential errands such as going to the grocery store and to attend to healthcare needs.” Individuals who are at high risk can contact [Human Resources](#) if they are requested to work on campus and are unable to do so. Graduate students can also contact the [designated person in their school or college dean’s office](#).
2. We expect to provide some limited space on campus for researchers without adequate IT infrastructure at home.
3. The Libraries are developing a phased plan for restoring in-person services and onsite access to collections. Prior to reopening library facilities, on-site staff will provide access to materials through its [Library Express](#) service, and scanning some materials with restrictions.
4. Activities currently approved under a Research Lab Continuity Plan (RLCP) may proceed according to those plans; please check to see that they continue to meet current Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) guidance. Continuity plans were put in place to enable the minimum level of activity necessary to avoid a catastrophic loss of research results, materials, or infrastructure. In contrast, the Research & Libraries Operating Plans (RLOP) will enable a higher level of activity and participation. The operating plans will replace continuity plans, and researchers are asked not to submit new or amended RLCPs unless there are significant extenuating circumstances so that resources can be devoted to the operating plans.
5. Because faculty and other researchers have the best information on the facilities, the program, and the participants, they are best positioned to propose the RLOP. The RLOP must also be consistent with state and university health and safety requirements, so will require institutional review and approval.
6. Requirements for social distancing, by both physical and temporal means, are critically important. In many cases, this will mean a lower occupancy in spaces and staggered shifts of personnel consistent with the safety standards.

7. In addition to social distancing within individual laboratories, it is important to avoid overcrowding in public spaces such as restrooms, eating areas, elevators, etc. Therefore, information on the number and timing of personnel for each floor and in each building from the individual RLOPs must be aggregated and individual plans may require revision to avoid overcrowding.
8. The vice chancellor for research and engagement will provide a Quali form to submit the RLOP and will provide aggregated information from the proposed RLOPs to deans and departments.
9. Once the RLOP is submitted, labs can begin operations by meeting the conditions in the COVID-19 [Interim Operating Plan](#) and with the approval of the department, dean and center/institute director (where applicable).
10. Undergraduate students returning in fall 2020 should be aware that on-site laboratory and field work is subject to several conditions and limitations required to mitigate the health and safety risks of COVID-19. Research that can be conducted remotely is not subject to these limitations, and it is recommended that projects be adjusted to remote work if possible. Students planning to do research involving on-site laboratory or field work should be registered for academic credit (e.g., honors thesis, or an independent study course). These registrations will be placed on a wait list until students confirm with the instructor that their participation can be accommodated under an operating plan as required for all on-site laboratory and field work. These students will be accommodated as the space available in research laboratories and the availability of appropriate supervision permits. Priority will be given to graduating seniors who require the course to satisfy a graduation requirement, e.g., to complete an honors thesis.

Research & Libraries Operating Plans

Work on the RLOP can proceed, with all researchers intending to use laboratories completing the following:

- Complete the UMass Amherst [Lab Restart Checklist](#). If necessary, one faculty member or their designee and a second person if needed for safety, are now approved to go to the lab for this purpose.
- Complete the [COVID-19 Laboratory Training](#).
- Review the [Returning Safely to UMass](#) video and follow all of the health and safety guidance there, including the [COVID-19 Daily Self Checklist](#).
- Review the [Cleaning Procedures for Labs and Offices](#), and
- For more information visit this [Environmental Health & Safety site on laboratories](#).

Faculty should use the following prompts in anticipation of the RLOP preparation.

- What activities cannot be done remotely; which are most-time sensitive, e.g., seasonal work, thesis or postdoctoral research close to completion; projects with a large impact on tenure and promotion; sponsored projects with upcoming deadlines; timely access to special library collections, studio space.

- Who must be in campus facilities to conduct the activities? Are the individuals able to do so at this stage and on what schedules?
- How will plans protect early career researchers, graduate students' programs of study, and postdocs training and mentorship? Undergraduate researchers should not be included unless they have substantial prior training and experience. How will our campus values of diversity, equity, and inclusion be reflected? Note: Sponsorship of international visitors is currently suspended until at least September 2, 2020.
- Given your use of facilities, how will the health and safety of research teams be protected? For instance, how will physical distancing be accomplished within the research space? As a first estimate, 113 square feet per person (6-foot radius) is recommended to determine an occupancy that allows for appropriate social distancing ([FEMA](#)). However, this does not account for the details of fixtures, furnishing, and equipment or, most important, for the movement within the spaces. So, we expect that the operational maximum occupancy for a space will be significantly less than the maximal occupancy based on this first estimate. In a separate message, we will provide instructions on accessing data on square footage by building and room, as well as floor plans which may be used to make more detailed estimates of the operational maximum occupancy.
- If the space available cannot accommodate all researchers, what subgroups of people (teams) should access the facilities at different times? Separate teams without shared membership enhances social distancing and diminishes the chances that an entire lab group might need to self-isolate for an extended period. What sort of time blocks are required – several days a week for different shifts, or different blocks each day? Note that enhanced cleaning between time blocks and time to exit and enter buildings without overcrowding is necessary. Please consult with your team members on their views and home responsibilities (e.g., high risk, childcare, elder care).
- What kind of other shared spaces (besides restrooms, elevators, and eating areas) are needed, e.g., access to Library materials not available online (please visit the [Libraries' Remote Services](#) page for updates), Core Facilities, shared cell culture rooms, autoclaves, etc.?
- [Core Facilities operational status is variable](#), subject to staff availability. Access and level of service is at the discretion of the core director or the director of centralized core services.
- Will you need campus support services to operate successfully and safely (e.g., CEMS or package deliveries)?
- EH&S requests that if part of your research safety requirement includes personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves or N95 masks, please email askehs@umass.edu and include your name, laboratory location, and PPE needs. A limited supply is currently available, and EH&S will work on a centralized procurement of additional items if necessary.
- To ensure availability of cleaning supplies, Physical Plant Custodial will provide hand sanitizer, disinfectant, paper towels, soap, and tissues for your laboratory. When your plans are set, please email Pam Monn at psmonn@facil.umass.edu with your name, contact information, and the location where you would like it dropped off. In the future to request additional supplies, please contact Pam Monn.

Resources

- [Environmental Health & Safety lab checklist](#)
- [Reopening Massachusetts Full Report](#), May 18, 2020
- [ACHA Guidelines: Considerations for Reopening Institutions of Higher Education in the COVID-19 Era](#), May 7, 2020
- [University of Washington School of Medicine Guidelines for COVID-19 Prevention While Working in the Laboratory](#), May 7, 2020
- Council on Governmental Relations (COGR) [Institutional and Agency Responses to COVID-19 and Additional Resources](#)
- The Association for Biosafety and Biosecurity [SARS-Cov-2/COVID-19Toolbox](#)