

UMassAmherst

March 5, 2021

Dear Campus Community,

The Public Health Promotion Center is closely monitoring COVID-19 test results. During this week the latest data available shows 117 positive cases occurred Monday through Wednesday. This is a 24 percent increase compared to the previous period last week.

It is vitally important that our community remain vigilant. Everyone must consistently follow public health protocols including social distancing, mask wearing and socializing only within your bubble. Given this week's uptick in positive cases, we must recommit to take the steps necessary to limit transmission of the virus.

Our data analysis shows that most of the cases result from students participating in small and large gatherings, both on and off campus. If such gatherings continue, the campus risks facing a new surge and the need to reimpose additional restrictions. We all want to avoid such a development. It's especially important to:

- Always mask when not alone or with your small household or bubble
- Keep your bubble small and socialize outdoors as much as possible
- Maintain room occupancy limits
- Avoid small and large parties
- Do not host or attend inter-household gatherings
- Do your part and encourage your friends to do the same

The UMass community has shown great resolve and leadership in helping to stop the spread of the virus. We urge you to continue staying in the fight, to keep us going this semester and to help ensure the health and safety of our great UMass community. We are all in this together.

We will keep the community informed about new developments. For ongoing updates and details on the university's COVID-19 response, please visit www.umass.edu/spring.

Sincerely,

Co-Directors of the Public Health Promotion Center (PHPC)

Jeffrey Hescock, Executive Director of Environmental Health and Safety
Ann Becker, Public Health Director