

Dear Student,

With our campus operational posture **raised to 'ELEVATED' this morning** after only one week of the semester, we are writing to share some critical health and safety information.

In the last several days, we have seen a concerning rise in positive test results. It is clear, based on contact tracing, that the viral spread is **directly related to socialization among students**. We need to immediately move into a period of limited interactions to reduce continued spread.

While many students are complying with public health guidance, and we are grateful for your cooperation, **it is imperative that all students adhere to the pandemic policy and public health directives.**

Students who disregard or violate public health guidance and university policy are being referred to the **Student Conduct and Community Standards** office (SCCS) in accordance with the **Interim Pandemic Policy** and our **Code of Student Conduct**, and violations are taken seriously. Between January 25 and February 4, SCCS issued behavioral notices to 183 students and initiated 82 students into the conduct process related to the Interim Pandemic and Code of Student Conduct policies. These referrals mostly involved back-to-campus quarantine, room capacity, social distancing, and facial covering.

All students must follow the restrictions outlined in the **university's operational postures**.

Operational Posture: Elevated

Restriction	What You CAN Do
<p>There are to be no student gatherings of any size. A gathering is any group of 2 or more students in close proximity for any length of time.</p> <p>This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students should limit social interaction to their households Students may not socialize in groups on or off campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep all social interactions limited to your household Identify agreements for how your household will maintain compliance with university guidance (use Pods@UMass for helpful information) Connect virtually with friends outside of your household Spend time outside with your household. Mask-up any time you leave home
<p>Campus building access is restricted; come to campus only for essential business.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit dining halls for grab-and-go meals Attend face-to-face classes Access mental health and wellbeing resources virtually

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete in person transactions through scheduled appointments with UMass offices
Campus Recreation Center is limited to virtual activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in virtual offerings from campus recreation • Exercise outdoors
Travel is restricted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-plan your errands, shopping and trips outside of the immediate area to minimize time away from home • Connect with friends and family virtually rather than go home for the weekend • If you need to carpool or ride public transit, make sure to mask-up, and follow recommendations for safety

We must work together to maintain a healthy campus community. Unless we significantly alter the behaviors of our undergraduate population, we will be forced to further restrict programs and services, and further de-densify the campus.

Thank you,

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