

UMassAmherst | Residence Education

Dear Students,

UMass Amherst has **lowered the campus operational posture from Elevated Risk to Guarded Risk** effective today. The steady decrease in the COVID positivity rate on campus is certainly encouraging, but we must remain vigilant. This message provides more details about what this change in posture means for your life in the residence halls.

- **Residential students may now host another student from their same residence hall in their room.**
The maximum number of individuals allowed in any residence hall room at a time is the number of assigned individuals plus one; maximum number in a suite or apartment common area is the number assigned to the suite/apartment.
- **There is no change in the guest policy.**
Guests are not allowed in the residence halls; a guest is defined as someone who is not a resident of the residence hall.
- **Residence Hall Common Areas will be opened at limited capacity in most residence halls.**
Capacity limits are posted in every common area including lounges and rec rooms; capacity of spaces range from 1 to 5 people permitted in a space. Students are expected to wear face coverings in residence hall common spaces at all times and these areas may not be used for dining. If COVID positivity rates in a specific hall are higher than the campus average, common areas may remain closed. Residence hall staff will be working on re-opening and unlocking these spaces over the next couple of days. Hallways and lobbies are not gathering spaces and gatherings in these areas is not allowed.

It is critical that we all work together to maintain this positive trend. Use these reminders to socialize safely, and help keep this encouraging trend headed in the right direction!

- When you do socialize, do so in your **small social bubble**, spend time outside, eat together at the dining hall, or participate in **university-sponsored events** and programs.
- Wear your face covering and maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance from others at all times outside of your own room (except when using the bathroom to shower, brush teeth or wash your face)
- Remove yourself from any situation in which COVID health and safety guidelines are not being followed
- Maintain compliance with the twice per week COVID-19 testing schedule or guidelines provided to you by the UMass Public Health Promotion Center related to testing if you have previously tested positive.

Thank you for your efforts in keeping our community safer.

Sincerely,

Jean Ahlstrand MacKimmie

Director, Residence Education