

February 13, 2021

Dear Campus Community,

The Public Health Promotion Center has been closely monitoring COVID-19 test results over the past week as the campus operates in a High-Risk posture, which will remain in place until at least Feb. 21 and will only be lifted when public health conditions improve substantially. We are writing today to provide you a situational update.

The recent surge in positive COVID-19 cases, which requires a series of mandatory restrictions to protect public health, has moderated. We recognize the many hardships that this period entails, and we thank everyone for adhering to practices that can limit the spread of the virus.

During the first week of High-Risk posture, we enacted a series of public health measures to address the surge, including an initial prohibition on outdoor exercise. Based on our assessment of this week's test results, that restriction is lifted immediately today. However, it remains imperative, when exercising and engaging in other outdoor activities, to follow mask protocols and maintain social distancing.

Meanwhile, all other restrictions remain in effect. These include:

- All in-person classes transitioned to remote format.
- All students, on campus or off, required to self-sequester. Students only allowed out for COVID testing, to get food, for medical necessity, and outdoor exercise. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action, which may include removal from residence halls and/or suspension.
- Campus athletic competitions remain cancelled.
- To minimize potential spread, students should refrain from travel from campus or outside the surrounding area.

For the latest updates and details on the university's COVID-19 response including [testing results](#), frequently asked questions, and support for students and employees, please visit www.umass.edu/spring. Thank you, again, for doing your part to help protect our community.

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

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