

UMassAmherst

March 19, 2021

Dear Campus Community,

The Public Health Promotion Center is closely monitoring COVID-19 test results.

The latest data show 33 cases were confirmed on Monday through Wednesday this week, compared to 59 cases last Monday through Wednesday. This corresponds to a nearly 2-times lower positivity rate compared to last week, and a 3.5-times lower rate compared to two weeks ago. The university's cumulative seven-day positivity rate is 0.36%, the lowest it has been since the start of the spring semester. The state's seven-day positivity rate is currently 1.93%.

The continued steady decrease in the number of positive cases is a testament to individuals following the public health protocols. This has allowed additional openings on campus including the Recreation Center this week. Everyone must continue to remain vigilant with social distancing, mask wearing and socializing within your bubble. The continued decrease in cases will provide us the opportunity for some additional public health restrictions to be lifted.

As part of their educational outreach, Student Affairs and Campus Life is now featuring public health advice from Laura Balzer, assistant professor of biostatistics and director of the UMass Amherst COVID-19 dashboard. She is providing twice-weekly video updates on trends emerging in our community. You can [subscribe to her Youtube Channel](#), or opt-in to receive notification when new updates go live in [the MyUMass app](#) (click the person icon in the top right and opt into Public Health Updates in the Message Center).

As encouraging as the current trends are these past two weeks, we want to remind everyone that we need to continue to follow all public health guidelines so we do not lose the hard-fought ground we've collectively made. Please stay masked, distant and get outside as spring arrives.

Sincerely,

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

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

[University of Massachusetts Amherst](#)