

# UMass Amherst COVID-19 Control Plan

The University is committed to keep faculty, staff and student safe and help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The University has developed the following COVID-19 Control Plan in compliance with Governor Baker's [Reopening Massachusetts Plan](#) and [COVID-19 Control Plan template](#) provided by the Commonwealth.

For additional resources and updates on the university's response on [COVID-19 website](#).

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**Number of Workers On-Site:** 6,296



## Social Distancing

- ✓ **All persons, including employees, customers, and vendors should remain at least six feet apart to the greatest extent possible, both inside and outside workplaces**
  - From the beginning of the Novel Coronavirus 2019 outbreak, the university has been providing consistent [health and safety guidance](#) to the campus community. The university has stressed the importance of social distancing.
  - Education of our on-site staff has been conducted by direct supervisors and reinforced via our website, posters, and at the end of the frequent campus-wide e-mails that get sent out include a special call to heed social distancing.
  
- ✓ **Establish protocols to ensure that employees can practice adequate social distancing**
  - Altered work flows, adjusted office space, staggered shifts, and small employee teams or cohorts to limit mixing of staff have been established throughout departments to ensure employees can maintain a six foot distance while conducting essential duties.
  - As the situation progressed, only workers designated as essential personnel, and then as on-site workers providing essential services reported to the workplace, others were expected to continue to work from home where feasible.
  - Physical barriers were established in many locations where employees interact with the public.
  - Dining options for all employees and students are grab and go only; there is no seating in dining areas.
  - Research
  - All campus payment transactions are now cash free and utilize touchless technologies.



HAVE TO GO OUT? KEEP 6 FEET OF DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND OTHERS WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

WHY DOES IT MATTER? IT CAN HELP LIMIT THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19).

WHAT IS IT? STAYING AWAY FROM CLOSE CONTACT IN PUBLIC SPACES, AVOIDING LARGE CROWDS & GATHERINGS.



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Environmental Health & Safety

[UMass.edu/coronavirus](https://umass.edu/coronavirus)

✓ **Provide signage for safe social distancing**

- A social distance sign was developed, distributed and posted up around campus. In addition to compliment the signage on campus to promote social distance, more than 200 new decals were installed in select key locations on campus traversed by on-site employees and students.

✓ **Require face coverings or masks for all employees**

- Since April 7<sup>th</sup>, the university has recommend the use of face coverings. On [May 4<sup>th</sup> the university informed](#) the campus community of the Governors new order requiring face masks or cloth face coverings, where social distancing is not possible. The university adopted a Wearing is Caring campaign to promote the use of face coverings. [General](#) and [laboratory](#) specific FAQs have also been developed.
- Prior to April 7<sup>th</sup> masks have been required in all situations where a 6 foot distance cannot be maintained such as in heavy lifts on construction sites.
- Face coverings have been provided by the university whenever employees do not have their own for use.



## Hygiene Protocols

✓ **Provide hand washing capabilities throughout the workplace**

- Handwashing facilities are readily available to all our workers in every building.
- Alcohol based hand sanitizer of > 60% alcohol stations are located strategically at entrances to our busiest locations. Portable hand sanitizer dispensers have been distributed to departments for convenient hand washing.
- Construction projects at the University, have either installed handwashing facilities, or have been allowed to use a restroom designated for use at the site.

✓ **Ensure frequent hand washing by employees and adequate supplies to do so**

- During this time with few on-site workers, Physical Plant has designated specific restrooms for use appropriate for the occupancy of the building and has kept the designated restrooms stocked. Construction sites are keeping handwashing facilities they installed and restrooms designated exclusively for their use stocked.

✓ **Provide regular sanitization of high touch areas, such as workstations, equipment, screens, doorknobs, restrooms throughout work site**

- Physical Plant has been providing regular sanitization of common spaces and designated restrooms daily.
- Sanitizing wipes have been distributed for employees for use between cleanings conducted by our professional staff.
- Construction contractors are providing sanitization of high touch surfaces, restroom and handwashing facilities within their sites as well as restrooms designated exclusively for their use.



## Staffing and Operations

### ✓ Provide training for employees regarding the social distancing and hygiene protocols

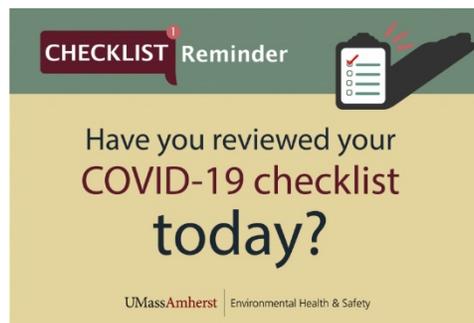
- On-site employees have been given guidance and training on social distancing and hygiene protocols from their supervisors or through Environmental Health and Safety staff.
- As additional employees have been designated as on-site, COVID safety plans have been developed for them, and they have been trained prior to their assignment as on-site.
- A [training video called Returning Safely to UMass](#)

provides information on best practices and protocols to keep the university safe as we undertake a phased reopening of campus. The training video augments site specific instructions by area supervisors.



### ✓ Employees who are displaying COVID19-like symptoms do not report to work

- Since early April, we have provided on-site employees with a [COVID-19 Daily Self Checklist](#) to be reviewed each day before reporting to work. This checklist provides instruction on who to contact if they have symptoms of COVID or have been exposed to someone with COVID or have been asked to quarantine or self-isolate.
- The checklist is provided in multiple languages, as posters, and as a mobile phone application.
- Construction site employees have daily temperature checks on-site prior to the start of each shift by University Health Service staff.



### ✓ Establish a plan for employees getting ill from Covid-19 at work, and a return-to-work plan

- A COVID-19 human resources (HR) team has been established to rapidly respond to employees HR and occupational health needs.
- A protocol is in place for employees displaying symptoms, testing positive for COVID or otherwise being asked to quarantine or self-isolate.
- University Health Services has developed testing protocols and capability, as well as contact tracing capability for staff, faculty and student employees.
- Isolation and Quarantine space has been designated on campus for residential students and staff with occupations with high exposure to COVID-19.



## Cleaning and Disinfecting

- ✓ **Establish and maintain cleaning protocols specific to the business**
  - Cleaning and disinfecting protocols and staff training have been provided to custodians and dining facility workers for enhanced cleaning utilizing EPA approved disinfectants and guidelines.
  - Enhanced cleaning is focused on high touch surfaces such as door knobs, railings, elevator plates, restrooms, light switches and shared common areas.
  - [Cleaning procedures](#) are posted for Labs and Offices, Individual/Shared Spaces and Remote Teaching Spaces in accordance with EPA guidelines for coronaviruses.
  - Shared workspaces including desks, phones, and computers are cleaned and disinfected at the start and end of each shift and between any changes of user during the shift.
  - EPA registered and approved for use against coronavirus disinfecting wipes have been provided for departments who have shared workspaces.
  - Shared university owned vehicles such as police cars, vans, and buses receive cleaning between users and at the end of the day.
  
- ✓ **When an active employee is diagnosed with COVID19, cleaning and disinfecting must be performed**
  - Cleaning and disinfecting protocols have been provided to a team formed to perform deep cleaning/ disinfection of areas where an infected person was working.
  - Custodians have been provided with appropriate PPE per CDC guidelines and have received training on proper donning and doffing of the PPE for use whenever there is an environmental exposure to COVID-19.
  
- ✓ **Disinfection of all common surfaces must take place at intervals appropriate to said workplace**
  - Cleaning and disinfecting protocols have been provided to custodians.