

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 the [Higher Education COVID-19 Control Plan template](#) provided by the Commonwealth.

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

**Institution Name:** University of Massachusetts Amherst

**Plan Applies to:** Single Campus

**Campus Address:** 181 Presidents Drive, Amherst MA 01003

**Primary point of contact for campus Information:** Jeffrey Hescock, Executive Director of Environmental Health and Safety and Emergency Management, [jhescock@ehs.umass.edu](mailto:jhescock@ehs.umass.edu), 413-545-2682



## Social Distancing

- ✓ **Ensured that all persons, including faculty, staff, student, 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 faculty, staff and student can practice adequate social distancing**
  - Altered work flows, adjusted office space, staggered shifts, and small faculty, staff and students teams or cohorts to limit mixing of staff have been established throughout departments to ensure faculty, staff and students 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 faculty, staff and students interact with the public.
  - Dining options for all faculty, staff 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.



UMass Amherst  
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 faculty, staff and students.

✓ **Require face coverings or masks for all faculty, staff and student**

- 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 faculty, staff and students do not have their own for use.



## Hygiene Protocols

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

- 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 faculty, staff and student 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 desks, equipment, screens, doorknobs, restrooms throughout campus**

- 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 faculty, staff and students regarding the social distancing and hygiene protocols

- On-site faculty, staff and students have been given guidance and training on social distancing and hygiene protocols from their supervisors or through Environmental Health and Safety staff.
- As additional faculty, staff and students 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.



### ✓ Ensured Faculty, staff and students who are displaying COVID19-like symptoms do not report to campus

- Since early April, we have provided on-site faculty, staff and students 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 self-isolate.
- The checklist is provided in multiple languages, as posters, and as a mobile phone application.
- Construction site faculty, staff and students have daily temperature checks on-site prior to the start of each shift by University Health Service staff.



### ✓ Established a plan for faculty, staff and student getting ill from Covid-19 on campus, and a return-to-campus plan

- A COVID-19 human resources (HR) team has been established to rapidly respond to faculty, staff and students 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

- ✓ **Established and maintained cleaning protocols specific to the campus**
  - 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.
  
- ✓ **Ensured that when an individual on campus 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.
  
- ✓ **Prepared to disinfect all common surfaces at intervals appropriate to said part of campus**
  - Cleaning and disinfecting protocols have been provided to custodians.