



## UMB RECOVERY TASK FORCE

Oct. 30, 2020

Wear a mask, practice physical distancing, and exercise your right to vote.

University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) President **Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS**, offered these key reminders in a letter to the UMB community this week.

“Early voting in [Maryland](#) is available until Monday, Nov. 2. You can find more information about voting, including guidance for student organization engagement in political activity, at [UMB Votes](#),” Dr. Jarrell wrote.

“Coupled with the stress of the pandemic, it is increasingly important that we take steps to care for our mental health. The Student Counseling Center offers resources about [mental health and the 2020 election](#). Counselors are available; please contact the [Student Counseling Center](#) or the [Employee Assistance Program](#) to schedule an appointment.”

[Read the letter](#) in its entirety.

**This week’s highlights detailed below:**

- COVID-19’s Impact on Minorities
- UMB Guidance Resources Launches
- Close Encounters and Contact Tracing
- COVID-19 Tips for the Holidays
- Student Parking During the Pandemic
- Updated Clinical Experience Process Forms



## COVID-19's Impact on Minorities

Equitable health care surrounding COVID-19 came into focus through two recent pieces focusing on work at UMB.

A [Washington Post column](#) highlighted a message from UMBC President Freeman Hrabowski, PhD, urging for more Black participation in COVID-19 vaccine trials. Hrabowski (pictured above) is a participant in a trial at the School of Medicine's Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health.

Meanwhile, pandemic's impact on the Maryland Latinx community was the focus of a panel presented by Latinos Unidos @ UMB, an affinity group of UMB's Diversity Advisory Council.

"We know that essential workers are disproportionately people of color, and only about 16 percent of Hispanics are able to work from home," said **Wendy Camelo Castillo, MD, MSc, PhD**, assistant



## UMB Guidance Resources Launches

A new service called UMB Guidance Resources has launched to help manage work/academic life and family care issues, especially during this stressful time. Life can be stressful, whether it's related to personal, family, work, or academic issues. And when the COVID-19 pandemic is added to the mix, it can feel overwhelming.

This free benefit for UMB students, faculty, and staff provides access to resources to assist with many work/academic life issues, including identifying care for your dependents and elderly family members, obtaining financial and legal advice, and finding ways to improve your personal life.

Once you reach out to UMB Guidance Resources with a description of your needs, the program will provide a comprehensive report of resources that can meet your needs.

professor at the school of Pharmacy.

[Read a recap](#) or [watch](#) the presentation.

Visit the [UMB Guidance Resources website](#) for more information or click on the photo above to watch a video.

## Close Encounters and Contact Tracing

When UMB learns of a COVID-19-positive community member, the University's infectious disease experts conduct contact tracing. This team of experts works with the COVID-positive individual to determine whom from our campus community the individual may have been in close contact with.

What constitutes close contact? Per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, close contact means “someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from two days before illness onset.” In other words, working the same shift and/or working or having class in the same building with someone who later tests positive for COVID-19 is not necessarily close contact.

UMB relies upon the expertise of its infection prevention professionals in making decisions about who should be required to quarantine, and these experts are responsible for informing those who should be taking additional actions (such as testing or quarantines). Per CDC guidance, everyone should continue to follow safety guidelines applicable to all areas affected by community transmission of COVID-19.

Based on existing safety protocols including symptom monitoring, masking, and physical distancing requirements, UMB aims to minimize any workplace close contacts. Because COVID-19 is known to spread asymptotically, faculty, staff, and students should assume any person they come into contact with could be infectious and therefore warrants masking and physical distancing.

If you have concerns that you have been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, call the [UMB COVID-19 Hotline](#) at 800-701-9863.

## COVID-19 Tips for the Holidays

What should Thanksgiving look like in my house? Is it OK to give my neighbors baked goods? How risky is trick-or-treating when it comes to COVID-19 exposure?

Those are some of the questions answered during the latest ***Virtual Face to Face with Dr. Bruce Jarrell*** on Thursday, featuring two panelists from the School of Medicine: Meagan Fitzpatrick, PhD, an assistant professor and faculty member at the Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health; and Mary-Claire Roghmann, MD, MS, a professor specializing in epidemiology and public health.

One tip repeatedly shared from the World Health Organization: Avoid the three C's:

- Crowded places
- Close-contact settings
- Confined and enclosed spaces

*Watch a replay* for some expert tips and advice.

## **Student Parking During the Pandemic**

Parking and Transportation Services has created a guide to student parking during the pandemic that is [now available](#) on the UMB COVID-19 Recovery website. The announcement addresses the registration process, which garages are open, Lexington Street Garage rates, and alternative transportation options.

## **Updated Clinical Experience Process Forms**

Two revised forms are available under the Recovery Task Force's Experiential Learning focus area for faculty use.

The [Off-Campus Experiential Learning – Site Checklist](#) form is used for each site where you will be sending a learner.

The [Experiential Learning – Proposal Review Template](#) also has been updated.

More information is available on the [Return to Clinical Experience Process page](#) under the Experiential Learning focus area.

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Please visit [www.umaryland.edu/coronavirus](http://www.umaryland.edu/coronavirus) for more information about UMB's COVID-19 policies and recovery.

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