



## UMB RECOVERY TASK FORCE

Nov. 13, 2020

The Maryland Department of Health launched a new tool this week to help with COVID-19 contact tracing.

MD COVID Alert uses Bluetooth Low Energy technology to quickly notify users who might have been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19. iPhone users might have seen a push notification on their devices this week alerting them to the feature with instructions on how to [opt in for notifications](#). Android users will have to opt in by installing the MD COVID Alert app from the [Google Play Store](#). The feature can be disabled at any time.



Users remain anonymous, their location is never tracked, and no data is collected from their smartphones. Using Bluetooth technology, the system can detect if two devices are near each other without revealing where the devices are or whom they belong to.

If the technology deems that you have crossed paths with someone who tested positive and uses the same technology, the system will notify users of the date of exposure. Some users may receive a call from a contact tracer if their information is shared with contact tracers by the COVID-19-positive patient.

For more information about the app, including privacy and technology questions you might have, visit [covidlink.maryland.gov/mdcovidalert](https://covidlink.maryland.gov/mdcovidalert).

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

- UMB COVID-19 Hotline Video
- All Eyes on Pfizer and UMB
- Downloadable Electronic Signature
- Telework Reminder and Battling COVID Fatigue
- COVID-19 Safety Strategies for Thanksgiving
- Just Wear the Mask!
- Revised Restrictions in Baltimore
- Put a Flu Shot on Your Holiday To-Do List



### UMB COVID-19 Hotline Video

How do you use the [UMB COVID-19 Hotline](#)? When should you call?

Those answers and more are explained in [this video](#) featuring University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) associate professor **Marianne Cloeren, MD, MPH**.

Remember: We want to stop the spread of not only COVID-19, but also the flu and cold. Stay home! If you are unsure if your symptoms might be something more than the flu or a cold, report them in the SAFE on Campus system and call the UMB COVID-19 Hotline at 800-701-9863.



### All Eyes on Pfizer and UMB

UMB faculty and students were featured all over the news this week in the wake of Pfizer's announcement that its COVID-19 vaccine showed 90 percent effectiveness.

UMSOM was the first institution to administer the trial vaccine in the United States. [View complete coverage](#) on the UMB Recovery site.

Here are some people in the news:

**Kathleen Neuzil, MD, MPH**, director of UMSOM's Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health

The interview is divided into chapters on YouTube to easily skip ahead to the information you need.

Here are the timestamps for reference:

0:00 Introduction  
1:19 When Should You Call?  
1:52 Background of COVID-19 Hotline  
4:48 What Happens When You Call?  
6:20 Initial Advice  
7:31 What Guidance Is Provided?  
9:15 What Time Should You Call?  
9:48 SAFE on Campus  
12:30 Call the COVID-19 Hotline

Suggest a topic for a UMB Recovery Recap News video by emailing [cshelle@umaryland.edu](mailto:cshelle@umaryland.edu).

Health, talks to [CNBC](#) and [WMAR-TV](#).

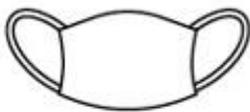
**Wilbur Chen, MD, MS**, and **Kirsten Lyke, MD**, explain to [Rolling Stone](#) what the announcement means.

UMSOM student **David Rach**, the first person to receive the vaccine, talks to [WBAL-TV](#).

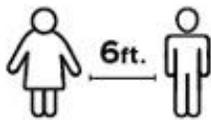
**Cynthia Sikorski**, director of alumni relations for the University of Maryland School of Nursing, shares her experience with [WJZ-TV](#).

**Peter Doshi, PhD**, associate professor of pharmaceutical health services research at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, tells [National Geographic](#) that more data is needed from Pfizer.

## HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19



FOLLOW PROPER  
MASK PROTOCOL



KEEP 6 FEET DISTANCE  
BETWEEN YOU AND OTHERS



WASH YOUR HANDS  
FOR 20 SECONDS



SELF-MONITOR

### Downloadable Electronic Signature

Visit the [UMB Recovery website](#) to download a version of the image above for use as an electronic signature.

The graphic is a great way to remind people via email to wear a mask, practice physical distancing, wash their hands, and monitor for symptoms. It's just another small way we can all do our part.

## **Telework Reminder and Battling COVID Fatigue**

In his [letter to the community](#), UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, reminded employees that the University is “still in a state of Moderate-Density operations, which means a UMB employee whose job can be performed through telework, as determined by the employee’s direct supervisor, is required to do so. No mandatory teleworker should be allowed or required to return to campus unless the appropriate review processes have been completed and required approval has been obtained.”

The letter also addressed COVID fatigue and included a reminder to stay vigilant by following safety protocols.

## **COVID-19 Safety Strategies for Thanksgiving**

The University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) is lending its expertise with [Thanksgiving tips](#) to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The article outlines considerations for traveling and things to do with different levels of risk, including virtual options for sharing a dinner and recipes.

As for Thanksgiving evening and Black Friday shopping, UMMS suggests it's best to skip the packed aisles and lines at stores this year. Shop online and have your gifts delivered.

## **Just Wear the Mask!**

It's not hard, folks. As Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan famously said this week (mild expletive deleted): “Just wear the mask!”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says you are less likely to get sick the more you wear a mask. Studies show consistent mask-wearing reduces the risk of acquiring infection by more than 70 percent.

Of course, not any face covering will do the job. For more on masks, including which cloth masks provide ideal protection, [read this post](#) on *The Elm*.

## **Revised Restrictions in Baltimore**

With COVID-19 positive cases spiking across the state, several jurisdictions are [taking precautions](#) by tightening restrictions.

Among the key revisions to know within the city of Baltimore:

- Everyone older than 2 must wear a mask outside when it's not possible to physically distance from people by more than 6 feet, according to a [revised Baltimore City Health Department order](#).
- Outdoor and indoor gatherings in public and private facilities, private homes, or any public space are limited to no more than 10 people, and there must be sufficient space to maintain 6 feet of physical distancing.

### Put a Flu Shot on Your Holiday To-Do List

It's better to have a stuffed turkey than a stuffy nose during the holidays, so why not get a flu shot? The UMB flu clinic has five dates available for registration. This year's clinic also offers asymptomatic COVID-19 diagnostic tests.

The sessions are:

- Nov. 20, noon to 4 p.m.
- Dec. 2, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Dec. 8, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Dec. 15, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Dec. 17, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The clinic is located at 635 W. Lexington St. Registration is required and will close when full or at 5 p.m. the day before the start of the session. For more information and to register, visit [umaryland.edu/flu](https://umaryland.edu/flu).

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

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