



UMB RECOVERY TASK FORCE

Sept. 10, 2021

In a [letter](#) to the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) community, the UMB COVID-19 Recovery Task Force outlined two major changes to on-campus COVID-19 guidance.

They include:

Face Covering/Mask Policy Change

To increase safety on campus, UMB is moving to require or encourage the use of KN95 masks, instead of surgical or cloth face coverings, as outlined below, in nonclinical settings (clinical settings maintain separate requirements).

Starting Sept. 15, unvaccinated employees and students must wear a KN95 when required to wear a face covering under the [UMB Policy Requiring Use of Face Coverings](#).

At some point in the near future, KN95s will be required for fully vaccinated students, faculty, and staff when participating in classroom and training activities.

Starting immediately, KN95s are strongly recommended for fully vaccinated students, faculty, and staff when participating in group activities where 6 feet of physical distance cannot be maintained or more than five people are present.

A KN95 mask is designed to reduce the amount of dust or virus a person breathes in by approximately 95 percent.

UMB will provide an initial KN95 mask to each person through each school/unit. Your school/unit will provide direction next week on how to receive your KN95, but please feel free to provide your own.

Information about [KN95 masks](#) can be found here.

UMB COVID-19 Guidance on Events, Eating, and Drinking

As of Sept. 20, UMB indoor events may not provide food that is intended to be eaten at the event – only grab-and-go food and beverages will be permitted. This will minimize the need to remove masks while in group settings and thereby reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 on campus.

This week's highlights detailed below:

- Student Affairs on “UMB Pulse”
 - Introducing Etta Kit
 - UMB COVID-19 Dashboard
 - UMB COVID-19 Safety Training
 - President Jarrell's Op-Ed on National Funding of Research
 - Return to Campus Mental Health Resource of the Week
 - Facilities Work Order Portal
 - PPE Available for UMB
 - On-Campus COVID-19 Testing at UM Immediate Care
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Student Affairs on 'UMB Pulse'

Patty Alvarez, PhD, assistant vice president of student affairs at UMB, helps students get ready for the fall semester as they return to campus discussing the renovated Student Affairs Suite (8:57), which includes the Student Counseling Center (10:29) and the Intercultural Center (12:13). She'll also discuss a planned food pantry (13:12), the brand-new UMBengaged platform for student organizations (23:11), and more. Need your Pulse Check for campus updates? You'll want to hear this week's edition for guidance on events, eating, and drinking (5:12).

Listen to all episodes at umaryland.edu/pulse. Or, subscribe to "The UMB Pulse" podcast on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts,



Introducing Etta Kit

By now, we've gotten used to navigating a pandemic world on the home front, but what about now that many members of the UMB community are returning to campus? What's the right thing to do when being approached by an unmasked colleague?

Etta Kitt is here to answer the UMB community's questions about tactfully treading through these situations and more. Have a question for Etta? Submit questions

at umaryland.edu/ettakitt. You can even remain anonymous if you wish. She looks forward to hearing from you! Etta Kitt also will make an appearance on "The UMB Pulse" podcast starting Sept. 16.

Here's a look at what has come into the mailbag already.

Amazon Music, Stitcher, and iHeartRadio to name a few.

Please rate and review “The UMB Pulse” podcast on your favorite provider!

Next Pulse Check: Thursday, Sept. 16 with an appearance by Etta Kit

Next full episode: Thursday, Sept. 23 featuring **Diane Forbes Berthoud, PhD, MA**, chief equity, diversity, and inclusion officer and vice president.

Dear Etta Kitt: I am so excited to return to campus and see my colleagues after all this time apart! I'm a natural-born hugger. Is it OK if I greet my co-workers with my usual big bear hug?

*Signed,
Arms Wide Open*

Dear AWO: I love your enthusiasm and the adoration you exude for your colleagues. However, due to the workplace environment, not knowing who is vaccinated and who is not, AND not knowing if this affection would be welcome, I recommend you reserve hugs for family and pets only.



UMB COVID-19 Dashboard

A new dashboard is now live on the [UMB Recovery website](#) that displays on-campus COVID-19 vaccination rates and positive cases reported to the UMB COVID-19 Hotline.

We hope that this information can provide perspective and situational awareness while on campus at UMB.

If you have any symptoms compatible with COVID-19, please call [1-800-701-9863](tel:1-800-701-9863).



COVID-19 Safety Training

Please check your inbox for a new required COVID-19 Safety Training course from UMB.

The email was sent this week from eLearning@umaryland.edu.

The training reviews COVID-19 safety guidance, symptom monitoring, UMB policies, implications of the Delta variant, and how to use the UMB COVID-19 Hotline.



President Jarrell's Op-Ed on National Funding of Research

In an op-ed for *The Baltimore Sun* published Sept. 6, UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, said the funding of research at academic research institutions such as UMB must be a national priority.

UMB is committed to the battle, Jarrell wrote, detailing efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic at the University: performing vaccine trials at the Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health; setting up a statewide testing process at the Institute for Genome Sciences; administering 40,000 vaccine doses at UMB's Vaccination Clinic; caring for COVID-19 patients; supporting the local community; and more.

You can read the op-ed [here](#).



Return to Campus Mental Health Resource of the Week

The renovated Student Affairs suite on the third floor of the SMC Campus Center includes a renovated [Student Counseling Center](#).

Feel free to visit during normal business hours to look at the new improvements.

Telehealth is currently being offered due to operational conditions. Please call 410-328-8404 to make an appointment or if you are having a crisis and need immediate assistance.



Facilities Work Order Portal

Have you returned to campus to find that lights need to be replaced in your office? There is a leak in the ceiling? Broken furniture?

Starting Sept. 14, the UMB Facilities and Operations portal used to request such work is being replaced and upgraded, helping to streamline the process for both customers and Facilities employees so that work can be completed quicker and more efficiently.

Read [this story in The Elm](#) about the change. The portal link will be shared in The Elm and the Recovery Recap when it's live.



PPE Available for UMB

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Critical Resources and Logistics has personal protective equipment (PPE) available for UMB employees.

Limitations may be placed on the amount ordered. Please use the order form below. For details, visit [this](#)

[page](#).

There is no charge for any of these supplies. Please enter the quantities you would like in the [PPE Distribution Order Form](#) (please note, this form has been updated) and send an email to [Jim Chandler](#), critical resources and logistics program manager. Supplies are typically available within two to three days from the order date, depending on quantities requested and the availability of a delivery truck from the Department of Environmental Services.



On-Campus COVID-19 Testing at UM Immediate Care

COVID-19 tests are being offered at [UMaryland Immediate Care](#), 408 W. Lombard St.

Faculty, staff, and students who want to schedule an appointment for an on-campus COVID-19 diagnostic test or a flu shot should call [UMaryland Immediate Care](#) directly at 667-214-1899. Or visit this [new link](#) for online scheduling.

Additionally, the Baltimore Convention Center has a wider availability of appointments for testing and is a short walk from campus. Appointments at the Convention Center can be made online using [this link](#).

Please visit umaryland.edu/coronavirus for more information about UMB's COVID-19 policies and recovery.

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