UMB RECOVERY TASK FORCE

Nov. 12, 2021

Consistent with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) no longer requires face coverings be worn outdoors.

Previously, UMB required that masks be worn at outdoor gatherings where attendees were in fixed seating for more than 15 minutes without 6 feet of physical distancing.

The change to the *UMB Policy Requiring Use of Face Coverings* has been made because *the CDC suggests* wearing masks outdoors in areas with high numbers of COVID-19 cases if you are in a crowded outdoor setting with close contact with people who are not fully vaccinated. Not only is *Baltimore currently in the substantial community transmission category*, but 97 percent of UMB's community is fully vaccinated.

No changes have been made to the face covering policy regarding indoor activities. A face covering must be worn at all times indoors while on UMB's campus or at an off-campus location occupied by UMB community members, regardless of vaccination status. KN95s are the only permitted face covering for unvaccinated faculty, staff, and students — whether they have a valid exemption or not. KN95s are required for fully vaccinated students, faculty, and staff when participating in classroom and training activities. 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.

UMB will continue to monitor CDC and other public health guidance.

This week's highlights detailed below:

- On-Campus Vaccination Rates
- UMB Experts on Pediatric Vaccines
- COVID-19 Boosters
- Mental Health Resource of the Week
- KN95 Mask Distribution

On-Campus Vaccination Rates

As of Nov. 9, 2021

ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYEES VACCINATED

95.70%

(7,638 Total People)

ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS VACCINATED

98.86%

(6,566 Total People)

Please visit the COVID-19 Dashboard on the **UMB Recovery website** for the latest on-campus COVID-19 vaccination rates and positive cases reported to the **UMB COVID-19 Hotline**.

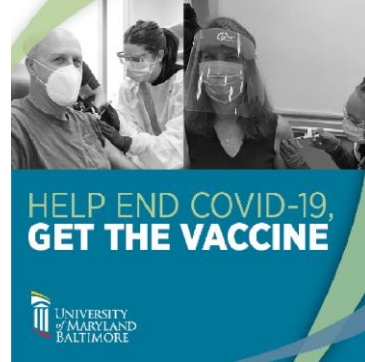If you have any symptoms compatible with COVID-19, please call **1-800-701-9863**.

UMB Experts on Pediatric Vaccines

Pediatricians and vaccinologists Karen Kotloff, MD; James Campbell, MD, MS; and Milagritos D. Tapia, MD, all with the University of Maryland School of Medicine's Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, recently discussed what parents need to know now that the CDC has authorized the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for 5- to 11-year-olds under an emergency use authorization.

They pointed out that about a third of children who are hospitalized end up in an intensive care unit and that COVID-19 doesn't just affect children with pre-existing conditions.

"We have a vaccine that is essentially 100 percent effective against death and intensive care units," Campbell said.

Tapia says the vaccine will allow a faster return to normal.

COVID-19 Boosters

COVID-19 boosters for Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson are available at area pharmacies and clinics. Your booster can be different from your initial vaccinations. It's OK to ***mix and match.***

For individuals who received a primary series of Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, all providers can offer a booster dose of any Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved or -authorized COVID-19 vaccine at least six months after the primary series to the following individuals:

- People 65 years and older
- Age 18-plus who live in ***long-term care settings***
- Age 18-plus who have ***underlying medical conditions***
- Age 18-plus who ***work or live in high-risk settings***

For individuals who received a primary series of the J&J vaccine, all providers can offer a booster

"As a parent and as a scientist, the data are there supporting the safety and efficacy of these vaccines. And it's the best thing that we can do to get our children back to their normal lives at school and interacting with their peers in safe and meaningful ways, especially as the holiday season approaches," she said.
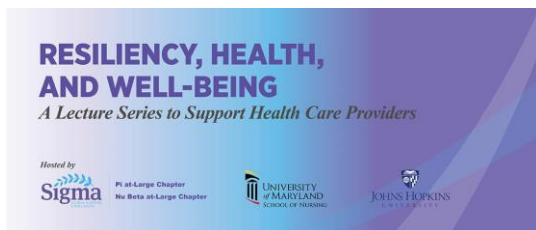
You can watch their discussion *here*.

To find a vaccine provider, Marylanders can visit *covidvax.maryland.gov* or call 1-855-MD-GOVAX.

dose of any FDA-approved or -authorized COVID-19 vaccine at least two months after the primary dose to any individual 18 years and older.

For more details, click *here*.

Mental Health Resource of the Week

"Resiliency, Health, and Well-Being" is a series of quarterly programs offered by the Pi at-Large Chapter of Sigma at the University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON) and the Nu Beta at-Large Chapter of Sigma at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing to foster well-being and resiliency in nurses, physicians, and other members of the interdisciplinary team of health care providers.

"Facing Adversity" will be presented by Karen Clark, PhD, RN, Alumna CCRN, assistant professor, UMSON, at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 18 and will focus on experiences and challenges, responses, and how within us we can determine our direction through the twists and turns we experience. This provides us the ability to recognize our inner power in overcoming adversity. Growing in a positive direction from adversity increases our resilience, self-worth, mentoring, caring and connecting with others, and gaining resilience in our lifelong journey.

Learn more about the program *here*. Register *here*.

KN95 Mask Distribution

The UMB Office of Emergency Management has completed distribution of KN95 masks to schools and units. If you have not received your KN95 mask yet, students should contact their school's student affairs office, and employees should contact their supervisor.

Visit *this Elm post* to know when and where *KN95s are required.*

This *one-stop shop for KN95 answers* lists everything you need to know as well as a *video demonstrating* how to wear and care for a KN95 mask.

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

Follow UMB: