



UMB RECOVERY TASK FORCE

Dec. 17, 2021

As COVID-19 cases spike due to the Delta and Omicron variants, overburdening families, front-line workers, and hospitals, members of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) community are strongly encouraged to get a COVID-19 booster shot as soon as possible.

This week, Anthony Fauci, MD, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, shared with the nation that while the primary two-dose vaccination series from Pfizer and Moderna offer considerable protection against severe disease, the vaccinations are severely compromised by Omicron.

However, there is good news: The available booster shots protect against Omicron.

If you have received your booster and signed the Chesapeake Regional Information System for Our Patients (CRISP) authorization to share your vaccination data, UMB may already know of your booster status. Please help UMB by confirming we have your booster data in the [**COVID-19 Management Portal**](#).

If we do not have your booster data, the easiest way to share is by authorizing your vaccination to be shared with UMB via CRISP. This can be completed in the portal.

If you have not used the CRISP authorization, or were vaccinated at a health care facility that does not use CRISP, please upload your booster information in the portal, at the bottom of the page.

While there is no requirement from UMB to receive a booster at this time, emerging variants like Omicron can cause the University's situation to change quickly due to their sudden impact. UMB leadership will be in touch if policies regarding booster shots change.

This week's highlights detailed below:

- KN95 Mask Required Indoors
- Why Sturdivant Got the Booster
- Tell Us Why You Got the Booster
- Mental Health Resource of the Week
- Inclement Weather Guidelines
- Faculty Carryover Leave
- Weekly Baltimore City Vaccine, Testing Schedules
- Parking Fees for UMB, Lexington Market Garages
- COVID-19 Boosters for Teens
- Mask Up in All Areas of the Library
- Travel Policy Refresher

On-Campus Vaccination Rates

As of Dec. 15, 2021

**ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYEES
VACCINATED**

**ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS
VACCINATED**

95.49

%

(7,587 Total People)

98.86

%

(6,567 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**.



KN95 Mask Required Indoors

As COVID-19 cases spike due to the Delta and Omicron variants, an added layer of protection is being implemented for all at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB).



Why Sturdivant Got the Booster

Many individuals at UMB were able to get vaccinated early in 2021. Now as COVID-19 cases are on the rise and new variants such as Omicron are quickly spreading across the state, getting a vaccine booster is the

Starting Monday, Dec. 20, all **UMB faculty, staff, and students are required to wear a KN95 mask** or equivalent while indoors at UMB's campus or at an off-campus location occupied by UMB community members (e.g., Shady Grove, MPRC, Donaldson Brown, Columbus Center, etc.), regardless of vaccination status.

If you do not have a KN95 mask or need an additional one because your current KN95 is no longer safe to wear, please contact your supervisor to obtain a free mask.

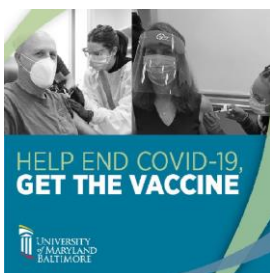
For instructions on how to wear and care for your KN95 mask, as well as to know which KN95 equivalent masks are acceptable at UMB, please visit [this link](#).

Additionally, an updated **KN95 mask sign** is available to print in the **COVID-19 Signage Toolbox**.

best form of protection, said **Brian C. Sturdivant, MSW**, director, strategic initiatives and community partnerships, Office of Community Engagement.

"I got boosted because I was among the first to be vaccinated in January 2021 and have been concerned about current and future variants and waning vaccine efficacy as the time passes," said Sturdivant, whose job involves building bridges between UMB and its neighboring West Baltimore communities.

Across the state, cases are on the rise and hospitals are reaching capacity. Vaccine and infectious disease experts say that getting a booster shot is the best way to prevent spread and serious illness.



Tell Us Why You Got The Booster

At UMB, your thoughts and experiences matter. We need your help to encourage others who are eligible to complete their COVID-19 vaccine series and get the booster shot. Share your story about why receiving the vaccine booster is important to you.

Tell us why you got the COVID-19 vaccine booster and take this opportunity to showcase your story and inspire others on campus. Over the next few months, UMB will be highlighting members of the community and their vaccine booster experience.

Share your experience getting the COVID-19 vaccine/booster by tagging us @umbaltimore and using #UMBVaccinesWork on Twitter or Instagram. Include why you got the vaccine.

You also can submit your photos and comments about your vaccine experience by visiting www.umaryland.edu/cpa/digital-marketing-and-social-media/umbvaccineswork/.



Mental Health Resource of the Week

The holidays are a great time to curl up on the couch to watch a good movie and spend time with family.

Watching the lengthy “Get Back” documentary about the Beatles felt a lot like spending time with family during the holidays in the eyes of University of Maryland School of

Social Work professor **Geoff Greif, PhD, MSW.**

Greif writes in an [op-ed published in *The Baltimore Sun*](#), “For some, you wish it would go on forever, like ‘Strawberry Fields.’ For others, the time felt overextended and maybe a little awkward when disagreements festered, making you want to shout, ‘Help!’ ”

The Beatles related almost like siblings — whom Greif studies in his work — would after the death of a parent; longtime manager and patriarchal figure Brian Epstein had died 16 months before the 1969 filming.

Greif explores this in *The Sun* op-ed about interactions between adult siblings during the holidays and how those change after a parent’s death.

The holidays can be both a joyous and challenging time for some. After another year disrupted by COVID-19, variants, and more changes, please take time to rest and recharge and have patience and understanding for your loved ones.

Happy Holidays!



Inclement Weather Guidelines

Be prepared for winter weather and know how it will impact your workday whether you are teleworking or on campus.

In the event of a UMB campus closure or delay, a **UMB Alert** will be sent by 5 a.m. This early notification ensures that those with long commutes or early shifts are aware in a timely manner. Closure and delay information also will be available on the **UMB Alerts webpage**, UMB social media accounts, and the UMB Emergency Information Hotline (410-706-8622). *Please note: Weather-related delays and closures are no longer sent to local news media outlets.*

Read this letter to learn specific steps essential employees, non-exempt employees, and those who are scheduled to telework should keep in mind.

The University's **guide to changes in on-campus operations** features additional information about campus closures, delays, and more. Please consult with your supervisor and the UMB Policy on Telework. If you have additional questions, please contact Employee and Labor Relations at 410-706-2606.



Faculty Carryover Leave

The University System of Maryland has passed a temporary exception for faculty with 12-month contracts to carry over 480 hours of annual leave into 2022. This is an update to what was **shared** by President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, in October. The carryover leave should be used by Dec. 31, 2022, and these hours are not available

for payout.



Weekly Baltimore City Vaccine, Testing Schedules

Looking for a place within Baltimore City to get a COVID-19 vaccine, booster, or test?

The Baltimore City Health Department publishes a weekly list and schedule of sites **here**.

The listing includes vaccination sites for children 5-11, and vaccination sites for anyone 12 or older.



Parking Fees for UMB, Lexington Market Garages

After a two-year pause on parking fee increases due to the COVID-19 pandemic, changes will be in effect starting Jan. 16, 2022, for UMB and Lexington Market Garage parkers with biweekly payroll deduction and monthly invoice billing.

[Read this letter](#) for a breakdown of those changes.

Please direct any questions to [Parking and Transportation Services](#).



COVID-19 Boosters for Teens

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster is now authorized and recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for adolescents ages 16 and 17.

This means that everyone 16 years and older is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine booster. This [CDC chart](#) easily explains who can get a booster, when to get a booster, and which booster to take.

“CDC is strengthening its booster recommendations and encouraging everyone 16 and older to receive a booster shot. Although we don’t have all the answers on the Omicron variant, initial data suggests that COVID-19 boosters help broaden and strengthen the protection against Omicron and other variants,” said CDC director Rochelle Walensky, MD, MPH. “We know that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, and I strongly encourage adolescents ages 16 and 17 to get their booster if they are at least six months post their initial Pfizer vaccination series.”



Mask Up in All Areas of the Library

It's great to have a study buddy, but please continue to wear a face covering in all areas of the Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HSHSL) and Thurgood Marshall Law Library.

Whether it's a common area, study room, or reading room, ***your face covering must remain on*** unless you are **alone** in a **closed room**.

In the tower area on the main floor of the HSHSL, only two people are allowed per table, and your mask must go over your nose and mouth immediately after eating.



Travel Policy Refresher

The International Focus Group of UMB's COVID-19 Recovery Task Force is closely monitoring the Omicron variant and its impact on international travel.

The task force will meet in January to review and possibly update international travel guidelines. More information will be shared widely after that meeting.

Please read the following posts for the latest travel protocols:

- [*Additional UMB Travel Guidance*](#)
- [*International Students and Scholars Return to Campus Guidance*](#)

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

Follow UMB:

