



UMB COVID-19 TASK FORCE

March 4, 2022

On March 2, UMB President **Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS**, announced changes to the University's mask policy. The updated policy can be accessed at [this link](#). We have developed the following answers to questions you might have regarding how the policy impacts you. We also encourage you to read the full policy.

Where are masks required on the UMB campus?

- Patient care and clinical areas including patient waiting areas and lobbies
- In-person health care simulation labs (though face shield/eye protection is no longer required in health care simulation labs)
- UMB public transportation (UMB *shuttle* or Safe Ride)

Who is required to wear a mask in these locations?

Everyone over the age of 2, regardless of vaccination status

What masks are permitted in these locations?

Medical-grade masks or KN95 or [equivalent masks](#)

Can I still wear a mask?

Yes. As noted in President Jarrell's announcement, anyone who is more comfortable wearing a mask is absolutely welcome to do so, and UMB supports your individual decision to wear or not wear a mask. UMB will not tolerate any harassment or intimidation when it comes to an individual's choice about masks. A [recent CDC study](#) showed that wearing an N95 or KN95 mask provides an excellent level of protection even if people around you are unmasked. Additional information on protecting yourself from COVID-19 can be found in [this post](#) on The Elm website.

Does this policy affect personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements for my job or educational assignment?

No. Requirements to wear PPE such as eye protection, gloves, or hearing or respiratory protection as part of your job or educational assignment are not affected by this policy.

Can a faculty member or supervisor mandate masks in my classroom or work area?

No. Schools, units, supervisors, and/or faculty cannot mandate wearing masks for COVID-19 in locations not covered under this policy.

Are unvaccinated or under-vaccinated people required to wear a mask in areas not covered by this policy?

No. However, UMB strongly encourages unvaccinated people or people who are not up to date on their COVID-19 vaccine to get their primary vaccine series and recommended booster vaccine, and to wear a KN95 or equivalent mask when interacting with people indoors until they are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

The [UMB COVID-19 Vaccination Protocols](#) remain in effect.

For more FAQs, please visit this [spring 2022 update](#).

This week's highlights detailed below:

- Changes to COVID-19 Website
- Share Your Booster Status
- Food, Events Restrictions Lifted
- Mental Health Resource of the Week
- Student Quarantine Guidance
- When Should I Use a Rapid Test and PCR Test?
- Help UMMS Fill Volunteer Support Roles
- COVID-19 Report Form
- COVID-19 Testing in Baltimore
- Maryland Positive At-Home Test Report Portal



Changes to COVID-19 Website



Share Your Booster Status

As UMB enters a new phase of operations and policies, so will the website you've grown accustomed to for such updates.

What was once known as the Recovery website, the UMB COVID-19 Guide is going through a process of archiving older policies and information and reorganizing pages.

Resources, policies, and other information — including COVID-19 vaccines, testing, and the UMB COVID-19 Hotline — will continue to be found on the website.

For more day-to-day updates, please continue to visit websites, social media accounts, and newsletters from various UMB offices, departments, and centers, in addition to reading [The Elm](#).

This newsletter, now the UMB COVID-19 Recap, will continue for the time being to share updates that you might have missed in the last week.

If you have general questions about living with the COVID-19 virus, please visit the [Academy of Lifelong Learning COVID Response Forum](#), where experts will respond.

If you have received your COVID-19 vaccine booster, please make sure your record has been updated with UMB.

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

If we do not have your booster data, the easiest way to report it 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 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. However, please note that some medical systems are requiring boosters for clinical students, and UMB can't guarantee clinical placements for students who aren't boosted.



Food, Events Restrictions Lifted

On March 2, President Jarrell also announced in his [letter to the UMB community](#) that he lifted restrictions about providing food at events and meetings and removed the need to have dean or vice president approval to host an event.

Please follow your school's or unit's procedures for hosting events.



messaging service.

For more information, [click here](#).

Mental Health Resource of the Week

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Helpline, also known as the Treatment Referral Routing Service, is a confidential, free, 24-hour-a-day, 365-day-a-year information service, in English and Spanish, for individuals or family members facing mental and/or substance use disorders.

It is available at [1-800-662-HELP \(4357\)](tel:1-800-662-HELP(4357)); via text message: [435748](tel:435748) (HELP4U); or via TTY: [1-800-487-4889](tel:1-800-487-4889).

This service provides referrals to local treatment facilities, support groups, and community-based organizations. Read more about the [HELP4U text](#)



Student Quarantine Guidance

As a reminder, revised quarantine guidance is in effect for students who have had a close contact exposure to someone with COVID-19.

You can read the details of each scenario in the [COVID-19 Hotline Exposure Guide](#), but the bottom line is this: Getting your booster shot has tremendous benefits for protection.

If you are boosted, you won't have to quarantine even if you have had a close contact exposure, as long as you remain without symptoms and continue to test negative using the recommended schedule of tests for your situation.

If you are vaccinated but do not have a booster, there is still a quarantine requirement, but not for as long as it would be if you were not vaccinated.

Getting your booster can help prevent you from missing classes and being away from campus during this critical time.



When Should I Use a Rapid Test and PCR Test?

Rapid and PCR tests have different guidelines for use depending on testing for symptoms, after an exposure, or after a positive COVID-19 test.

[Visit this FAQ](#) for guidance on using a rapid test and PCR test for the scenarios outlined above.



Help UMMS Fill Volunteer Support Roles

[Please read this message](#) from the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) about volunteer opportunities for members of the UMB and Faculty Physicians, Inc. communities to assist UMMS with staffing shortages due to the COVID-19 surge.

UMB encourages volunteerism in the community. As a reminder, volunteering at UMMS must be performed outside of your scheduled UMB workday and workload expectations. Any faculty or exempt staff with questions about whether volunteering would fall outside of their work expectations should speak to their dean or supervisor.

Please consider helping if you can.



COVID-19 Report Form

Please take advantage of the [UMB COVID-19 Report Form](#), where you can self-submit a positive test and receive an email response with guidance for your situation.

The form is a great tool for any UMB student, faculty, or staff member or Faculty Physicians, Inc. (FPI) employee to receive immediate guidance in lieu of calling the hotline.

In some cases, the guidance will include a recommendation to call the hotline for expert advice on situations needing a clinical perspective. If the guidance in the email does not answer all your questions, please do contact the hotline at 1-800-701-9863, or contact your health unit:

- UMB faculty and staff: UMBOccupationalHealth@som.umaryland.edu
- UMB students: SHealth@som.umaryland.edu
- FPI employees: FPIEmployeeHealth@som.umaryland.edu



COVID-19 Testing in Baltimore

COVID-19 testing is available at the University of Maryland Medical Center Modular Care Unit at 110 S. Paca St.

For directions, hours, and other details about the testing site, please read [this letter](#).

As part of a push to provide more COVID-19 rapid testing sites in Maryland, the Maryland Department of Health and Maryland National Guard are partnering with hospitals to provide walk-up testing outside of their facilities.

Please visit covidtest.maryland.gov for a full listing and updated hours under Testing Announcements.

COVID-19 tests, vaccinations, and boosters also are offered at State Center, 300 N. Preston St., in Baltimore. For testing hours and appointments, [click here](#).

Nomi Health offers rapid antigen, nasal PCR, and rapid PCR testing at 419 W. Baltimore St., next to Panera Bread. It will bill an individual's insurance but also serve those without insurance at no cost. Same-day testing is available and walk-ins usually can be seen, but scheduling a test is preferred, using [this link](#).

The Baltimore City Health Department also lists a weekly schedule of vaccination and testing sites [here](#).



Maryland Positive At-Home Test Report Portal

A [COVID Positive At-Home Test Report Portal](#) is available for Maryland residents to alert the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) of a positive result from a COVID-19 at-home test.

The portal makes it easier for people to report positive at-home test results and gain access to state resources such as guidance, MD COVID Alert, and contact tracing.

There are two ways to report an at-home positive COVID test:

- Patients can use the instructions provided with each test kit to report their results directly to the test manufacturer through its website or app.
- Patients can visit covidlink.maryland.gov/selfreport to report positive results directly to MDH.

Tips for submitting:

- You will need to log in or register on OneStop via the portal to proceed.
- You need a cellphone to register.
- The system will only accept test results completed within the last 10 days.
- When completed, you will receive a confirmation email with isolation guidelines.

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

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