

# 4 MARYLAND Reopening Plan

FALL 2020



UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND

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## Reopening Plan

FALL 2020

The University of Maryland leadership team has collaborated across campus to plan for the safe and gradual resumption of on-campus activities “4 Maryland” in Fall 2020.

It closely coordinated with state and county health officials, with additional guidance provided by the [University System of Maryland](#).

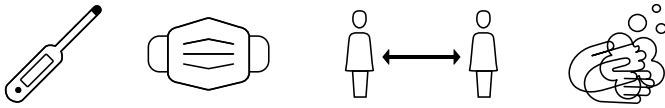
Four principles inform the plan:

1. Prioritize the **health and safety** of every member of our campus community;
2. Protect and support the **educational and research missions** to maintain academic excellence;
3. Make decisions grounded in our values of **equity and inclusion**;
4. Provide **timely and transparent communication** and collect input from internal and external stakeholders.

# 4 MARYLAND

4 Maryland, the university's campus-wide health information campaign, promotes important behaviors that focus on individual responsibility to keep ourselves and others safe. Everyone on campus is expected to follow four core guidelines:

1. **If you're sick, don't report to work or class.**
2. **Wear a face covering at all times indoors and outdoors when other people are nearby.**
3. **Stay at least 6 feet from others at all times.**
4. **Wash your hands frequently or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are unavailable.**



The campaign materials include posters, floor clings, digital screen graphics and more to emphasize these messages throughout campus. General materials are provided as English and Spanish bilingual versions.

The first phase of the 4 Maryland health information campaign included installing signs in common areas of buildings that are in use. Common areas include building entrances and lobbies, restrooms, existing hand sanitizing stations and elevators.



## 4 HEALTH AND SAFETY

The university's plan for COVID-19 monitoring, testing and early warning includes:

- A **training video and pledge** that all campus community members must complete, agreeing to abide by CDC-recommended health and safety regulations.
- **Daily self-monitoring** and reporting of temperature and any symptoms by all faculty, staff and students who are on campus.
- **Population surveillance testing** to establish the baseline infection rate on campus.
- **Contact tracing.** Any positive test result will be communicated immediately to state health authorities, who will activate a contact tracing team to identify potential secondary cases to limit the infection's spread.
- **Environmental monitoring.** UMD faculty experts are developing approaches for early detection of impending illnesses by monitoring wastewater, air and high-touch surfaces in campus buildings.
- **Behavioral changes.** The 4 Maryland health information campaign promotes important healthy behaviors.
- **Cleaning protocols.** All buildings approved for occupancy will be cleaned on a regular basis, including enhanced cleaning of high-traffic areas, and occupants are asked to assist by wiping chairs, tables and other high-touch surfaces after using them.
  - All classrooms used for in-person instruction will be equipped with sanitary wipes for surfaces such as seats, desks and tables between each class.
  - Instructors will be asked to allow time for students to sanitize their work area before class and to similarly sanitize their own work area and whatever equipment they plan to use for the class.
  - Classroom seating will be arranged or marked to indicate safe seating distances.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available near classrooms.
- Classrooms and high-touch areas in buildings will be cleaned and disinfected nightly.
- Instructors will be expected to deliver handouts and other types of course material digitally through ELMS-CANVAS to minimize the exchange of papers or any other instruction materials.
- Signs will be posted to direct one-way traffic within busy campus buildings and to indicate safe distancing to minimize the likelihood of congestion in hallways, at entrances, restrooms, etc.
- Cleaning frequency will be increased in community restrooms and high-touch areas in residence halls such as elevator buttons, water fountains and door handles.
- **Employee flexibility.** In general, the university encourages flexibility for employees, including graduate assistants. Departments should consider use of alternative work schedules, such as some on-campus work days and some telework days, use of leave and flexibility with starting and finishing times. University Human Resources has created handbooks for employees and supervisors:
  - For employees:**  
[Working Through COVID-19: Returning to Campus](#)
  - For supervisors:**  
[Managing Through COVID-19: Returning to Campus](#)



## 4 EDUCATION

Students can expect **blended education** and a campus with **fewer people** on it when the semester begins on schedule on Aug. 31.

Classes will run through Dec. 14, as scheduled. Faculty are preparing contingency plans to move entirely to online instruction after Thanksgiving break, should there be a resurgence of the pandemic in late fall.

The time between classes or the standard daily start and stop times for classes are not expected to change. The final exam period will be as scheduled, Dec. 16-22.

Because 6-foot physical distancing limits the number of students who can be accommodated in a classroom, learning and teaching will look different this semester.

Courses of **more than 50 students** will be delivered online. About **20% of undergraduate courses will be offered at least partially in-person**, with priority given to classes that particularly need in-person instruction, such as some labs, performance courses, senior capstone projects, clinical instruction and internships. Some of the innovations being developed by faculty this summer are aimed at using creative blended instruction and hopefully will accommodate partial in-person instruction even in some larger classes, through smaller breakout and discussion sections.

The updated Fall course schedule with final course options is available at [testudo.umd.edu](https://testudo.umd.edu), including the format (in-person, online or blended) for each course.

**Education Abroad** programs in all locations for the Fall 2020 semester are canceled. For detailed information about the canceled programs and other updates, visit the Education Abroad [website](#).



## 4 RESEARCH

Research operations were the first activities to resume on campus, speaking to the vital role researchers serve at the University of Maryland. Deans must approve a safety assuredness plan for each research lab in order for work there to resume. Researchers who can conduct their work remotely should continue to do so.

- University research is in Phase 1 (“limited presence”) as of June 8, in which only 25% of all researchers are back in their campus labs.
- Phase 2 (“intermediate presence”) is proposed to start in September, allowing up to 50% of researchers to return to their campus labs.
- Phase 3 (“full resumption”) is proposed to start in January, allowing up to 75% of researchers to return to their campus labs.

Find more information at [research.umd.edu/covid19#](https://research.umd.edu/covid19#).



## 4 STUDENT LIFE

### RESIDENCE HALLS

Residence halls will be converted to reduce occupancy and to allow for physical distancing.

- Triple and quad rooms will be reduced to doubles. Students will live in double- or single-occupancy rooms. To see the full list of updated housing and room and board fees, which have been frozen at 2019-20 rates, visit the [Housing Rates webpage](#).
- Community restrooms and high-touch areas in the residence halls such as elevator buttons, water fountains and door handles will be cleaned at an increased frequency.
- Residential spaces will be set aside for isolation and quarantining if needed.
- Students planning to live in a residence hall will need to sign an addendum to their On-Campus Housing and Dining Agreements by 5 p.m. July 20. It is available on the [Fall 2020 housing website](#) and must be submitted via students' Housing Portal. Details include:
  - Due to the increased risk of transmission of COVID-19 during travel, if in-person classes resume after Thanksgiving break, residents who travel during that period cannot return to their residence hall rooms until the halls open in Spring 2021. No refunds will be given for students who are unable to return to the residence halls due to this travel.
  - If the university decides to transition all classes online, students will not be permitted to return to campus housing after Thanksgiving, except for resident students who have extenuating circumstances and need emergency housing.
- Students who wish to request a roommate should use the Roommate Request and Roommate Finder available on the Housing Portal July 13-26.
- Beginning at 4 p.m. Aug. 3, Fall residence hall assignment and roommate information will be released via the Housing Portal.
- Sign-up for move-in appointments is expected to begin Aug. 5. Students can schedule a "set up and go" appointment for Aug. 16-22, when they will travel to campus with up to two helpers to set up their room, leave, then return with carry-on items before classes begin on Aug. 31. Students who live farther from campus and would be inconvenienced by two trips to campus will schedule move-in appointments Aug. 25-29. More details will be shared in late July.
- Students can cancel their On-Campus Housing and Dining Agreement without financial penalty through 5 p.m. July 20. Those who do so and are interested in returning to the residence halls for the 2021-22 academic year will retain their commitment group status as if they lived on campus this year.
- Resident assistants will organize virtual opportunities for students to connect and get to know each other. In-person opportunities will be very limited and held outdoors following all appropriate safety protocols.

Find more information at [reslife.umd.edu/fall2020](https://reslife.umd.edu/fall2020).



## DINING

Dining halls will open with reduced seating capacity, new carryout options and physical distancing, all with safety in mind.

Access to dining halls will be limited to students with dining plans or who have access to Dining Dollars.

In addition to the three dining halls, Dining Services will open several outpost locations: an outdoor grill by The Diner, the east dining room at South Campus Dining Hall and others. They will have fresh boxed meals ready for carryout.

Other changes will include hand sanitizing stations at entrances, one-way directional signs throughout the dining halls and physical distancing floor markers, and seating rearranged to accommodate physical distancing.

Dining Services employees will serve all meals, and they will wear face masks and sometimes face shields, depending on their task.

All protocols will meet or exceed local, state and federal guidelines for food service. Visit [dining.umd.edu/updates](https://dining.umd.edu/updates) for more information.

## RECREATION

The Stamp Student Union, Epley Recreation Center and other community gathering places will reopen with health and safety measures in place. Co-curricular programming will emphasize **outdoor and virtual activities**.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The University Health Center and the Counseling Center will be open for both in-person **medical assistance and counseling** as well as online options for support. Modified services, programs and activities include:

- Telemedicine appointments
- Pharmacy
- Behavioral health services
- Health Promotion and wellness services
- Sexual health and women's health services
- CARE to Stop Violence
- Campus Pantry
- Accessibility and Disability Services

Find more information at [health.umd.edu](https://health.umd.edu) and [counseling.umd.edu/covid19/](https://counseling.umd.edu/covid19/).



## 4 INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

The Department of Athletics' comprehensive plan to safely return to training, practice, competition and work prioritizes the health and well-being of student-athletes, coaches and staff.

The plan, featuring a gradual, phased approach, complies with public health guidelines as well as NCAA and Big Ten Conference requirements.

Athletic competition this fall is pending decisions by the NCAA and the athletic conferences. If the Big Ten is able to participate in fall sports (men's and women's cross country, field hockey, football, men's and women's soccer, and women's volleyball), the schedule will be in-conference only. That will allow the conference maximum flexibility to adjust operations based on the most current medical advice and evolving nature of the pandemic.

Big Ten student-athletes who choose not to participate in intercollegiate athletics at any time during the summer and the 2020-21 academic year due to concerns about COVID-19 will have their scholarship honored and will remain in good standing with their team.

Find more information at [umterps.com](http://umterps.com).



For the most up-to-date information, visit [umd.edu/4maryland](https://umd.edu/4maryland).



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