



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 28, 2020

Dear UNE Community,

I am writing to provide you with the preliminary results of our return-to-campus COVID-19 testing program for undergraduate students and to explain how we will keep you informed about positive cases going forward.

RETURN-TO-CAMPUS TESTING RESULTS

As a reminder, UNE required all undergraduate students to provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours before their arrival to campus. Students who tested positive were required to delay their arrival until cleared by a medical professional. Students who tested negative arrived on campus to a check-in process during which they presented their negative results and were administered a second test.

Based on the pre-arrival testing requirement, there were three students who tested positive at home and who have delayed their arrival. None of these students has come to either campus.

For students who tested negative at home, the University conducted 2,074 tests upon their arrival to campus, through which we identified one positive case on the Portland Campus. That student had not yet attended any classes or labs. We received 87 inconclusive tests and will be re-testing those students today. There are approximately 350 commuter students who have yet to arrive on campus and will need to schedule testing at one of the designated check-in times on August 31, September 2, and September 4.

In addition to this student case, Human Resources has learned of an employee on the Portland Campus who has tested positive. This individual is in isolation at home, and the University has notified anyone whom we have identified as a close contact. Following public health protocols, the Maine Centers for Disease Control is conducting contact tracing.

Given the widespread nature of this pandemic, we anticipated that our broad-based undergraduate student testing program would identify individuals who tested positive. These data have been reviewed by University leadership and health experts, who have determined that the results, in combination with UNE Onward health and safety protocols, indicate that it is appropriate to maintain our current operations at this time.

We send our best wishes to the student who has tested positive and to those who are in quarantine as a result of contact tracing, and we look forward to welcoming them back to campus soon. We will provide them with the support needed to continue their studies. We also send our very best wishes to the employee who is recovering. Please note that UNE will not share any information that could identify specific individuals, and we ask all members of our community to respect the privacy of those affected by COVID-19.

WEEKLY REPORTING PROCESS

Through the initial two-step testing process, we have established a baseline for supporting community health moving forward. By following the procedures of the UNE Onward plan, including symptomatic and targeted surveillance testing of our students, we intend to minimize the presence of COVID-19 on campus and address positive cases quickly.

As part of this process, we will post weekly updates about reported positive cases on the UNE Onward website at une.edu/onward-reporting. Each Thursday we will update this web page with the number of new cases that have been reported to the University, or that we have identified through our own testing, for the preceding seven-day period. This report will provide the number of new cases reported among students and employees on each campus.

University leadership and health experts are monitoring COVID-19 cases and other data to ensure community health and to guide consideration of any needed changes to operations. Should operation plans be changed, updates will be provided to students, faculty, professional staff, and parents via email and will be posted at une.edu/onward.

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

I am so grateful to all of the faculty and professional staff who worked tirelessly to develop the UNE Onward plan and who have implemented that plan with excellence and heart to begin the semester. And I thank our students, who are already demonstrating their commitment to keeping one another safe. This initial process indicates a strength in UNE's comprehensive approach to the COVID-19 pandemic, and I could not be more proud of our community.

Now, as the plan's name says, we will move UNE "Onward" together. I ask that we all stay mindful of the ongoing challenges we face and maintain our commitment to the UNE Onward Promise, even as we dig into the important work of learning and living together.

Sincerely,

James D. Herbert
President