

Dear Students,

As the fall semester comes to a close, I wanted to take the opportunity to share with you the protocols for returning to campus in January and to announce expanded student testing for the spring semester. **Please read carefully, as some of this information has changed.**

UNE will implement a return-to-campus plan that calls for **all students — undergraduates and graduate students — to submit evidence of a negative viral COVID-19 test taken within the 72 hours preceding arrival on campus. (This can be either the PCR or the Rapid Antigen test.)** Students will be tested again by Student Health Services (by appointment) upon arrival and will be given a bracelet to wear, which will signal completion of our return testing protocol.

Students who test positive for COVID-19 at home will be required to delay their arrival until cleared by a medical professional.

This process, very similar to the one which we employed with undergraduate students at the start of the fall semester, worked exceptionally well, allowing us to identify positive cases early and to contain them. Given the rising rates of COVID-19 infection nationally and in the state of Maine, **we have decided to require this process of graduate students for the spring semester**, with the hope that we can begin the spring term with as clean a slate as possible.

In addition to these initial testing protocols, UNE will also expand our current testing protocols to include ongoing surveillance testing.

Hometown Testing

I encourage students to communicate with their primary care physicians and local testing sites about test availability as the spring semester approaches. There are several online resources, including the website [get-tested-covid19.org](https://www.get-tested-covid19.org), that provide lists of testing facilities based on address. There is also an at-home test option that provides a fast turnaround time that is available to college students returning to campus. Please plan ahead to ensure that you will receive your test results in time for your trip back to campus. If you are not able to find a testing site in your location that ensures results within 72 hours, you may need to test sooner and then self-quarantine until the results are received. After receiving a negative result, you will be required to continue to self-quarantine until you arrive on campus.

Sending in Results of the Hometown Test

Please be aware that results **must be uploaded to Medicat** prior to on-campus testing.

To upload your results, follow these steps:

- Log in to the patient portal at <https://une.medicatconnect.com/>
- Click on the Upload tab
- Scroll to the bottom and select COVID-19 Documents from the dropdown
- Select file (Either take a photo of your results with a Smartphone or select the document from your library.)
- Click Upload
- Once the screen refreshes, scroll to the bottom and view documents already on file to verify the upload was successful

On-Campus Testing

Please be aware that on-campus COVID-19 tests **must be scheduled in advance**. While a more specific testing schedule, as well as detailed instructions on how to schedule your test appointment, will be forthcoming from Student Affairs (for undergraduates) and from deans/program directors (for graduate students), the general schedule will be as follows:

Undergraduate Students

January 11: Portland Campus, Innovation Hall; 8 a.m.–12 p.m.

January 12: Portland Campus, Innovation Hall; 8 a.m.–12 p.m.

January 13: Biddeford Campus

- Student Leaders (RAs, OLs, Building Managers, etc.): Alfond Forum; 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
- Commuters: Alfond Forum; 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
- Winter Athletes: Alfond Forum; 12–2 p.m.

January 14: Biddeford Campus

- New/Transfer Students: Alfond Forum; 12–2 p.m.
- Remaining Commuters: Alfond Forum; 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

January 15: Biddeford Campus, Alfond Forum; 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

January 16: Biddeford Campus: Alfond Forum; 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

January 17: Biddeford Campus: Alfond Forum; 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

Graduate Students

January 3: Biddeford Campus, Alfond Forum; 8 a.m.–12 p.m.

January 4: Portland Campus, Innovation Hall; 8 a.m.–12 p.m.

January 5: Biddeford Campus, Alfond Forum; 8 a.m.–12 p.m.

January 6: Biddeford Campus, Alfond Forum; 8 a.m.–12 p.m.

Testing for Students During the Semester

In the interest of protecting the health and safety of the UNE Community, and given the current surge of COVID-19 cases in Maine and nationwide, we will expand our current testing protocols to include ongoing surveillance testing. A percentage of students, faculty, and professional staff will be identified each week and asked to submit for testing on a voluntary basis. Conducted on campus, the tests will be administered by Student Health Center staff and volunteers and will be processed by our partners at the Broad Institute. The inclusion of surveillance testing will serve to further build out our mitigation strategy, which will continue to include on-demand testing for students, targeted surveillance testing when outbreaks are suspected, contact tracing, the regular testing of wastewater, and the measures outlined in the UNE Onward Promise: wearing of face masks, frequent hand-washing, social distancing, the prompt reporting of symptoms of illness, and regular self-monitoring.

I genuinely appreciate all that the student body has done thus far to help keep our campuses as safe as possible. As the date of a vaccine roll-out approaches, it is my sincere hope that the extreme measures we must take to protect one another will become a thing of the past. In the meantime, I thank you for your continued cooperation. Stay safe.

Sincerely,

Paul Berkner, D.O., FAAP
Medical Director, Student Health Services