

Office of Student Affairs  
Office of Student Health Services  
January 14, 2022



Dear Students,

We look forward to welcoming you back to campus next week and want to take this opportunity to reinforce some important aspects of our current plan with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### ***Situation in Maine***

Like most locations across the country, the Omicron variant is causing a record number of cases and hospitalizations in Maine. However, there is consensus among medical experts that this variant is causing less severe disease, particularly in vaccinated and boosted individuals. While we can anticipate that we will have higher incidents of the virus among our students and employees than we have previously, our vaccine and booster mandate, as well as masking while indoors, will help to slow the spread and to prevent serious illness in those who contract the virus. We will of course continue to monitor the situation to determine if masks will continue to be required later in the semester.

### ***Arrival on Campus***

UNE will not require onboarding testing to return to campus for the spring semester.

If you currently have any symptoms of COVID-19, we urge you not to return to campus and to seek testing. While we are not requiring testing prior to your arrival, we do encourage students to test before your arrival if you are able to do so. If you test positive, please submit that information to the Student Health Portal to delay your return.

### ***Vaccine Boosters***

As previously communicated, you will be required to get a booster and upload that information to the Student Health Portal by February 16, but we encourage you NOT to wait until that deadline to get your booster, as it will be critical in giving you enhanced protection against illness from the virus. If you have questions regarding the safety and efficacy of booster vaccines, please email [studenthealth@une.edu](mailto:studenthealth@une.edu) and a member of the Student Health Services team would be happy to speak with you.

Per CDC guidelines, any individual who has had a documented COVID-19 infection may get a booster any time after they have completed their isolation period and their symptoms have resolved. Students must get a booster by day 90 to comply with UNE's booster mandate.

### ***Positive Cases During the Semester: Quarantine, Isolation, and Academics***

We will follow the latest CDC guidelines with respect to quarantine for close contacts and isolation for those who test positive. If you experience symptoms at any time during the semester, please seek medical care through Student Health.

#### ***Isolation***

Students who test positive will be encouraged to go home for the duration of their isolation, or they may be provided with isolation housing on campus for five days if necessary, due to their living environment. During that time, they will be able to go to the dining halls and get “grab and go” meals which they will eat in their rooms. Faculty will work with them to avoid disruptions to their academic progress as best as possible.

#### ***Quarantine***

Students who are identified as close contacts, are fully vaccinated, and have received a booster do not need to quarantine but do need to wear a mask when around others for 10 days. Those students will also be required to take their food from the dining hall in to-go containers for the full 10-day period.

Students who have not received a vaccine booster or the vaccination will need to quarantine for 5 days and then mask for an additional 5 days.

In keeping with our practice in the fall, any students not comfortable with eating in a communal setting are welcome to take their meals to go.

#### ***Academics***

In addition to students who may test positive during the semester and will need faculty support to continue their academic work while in isolation, we are also mindful that we will have faculty who test positive. While you should expect all your courses to meet in-person as scheduled, there may be occasional and temporary disruptions to in-person classes to accommodate faculty who need to isolate. Your patience and flexibility are truly appreciated.

Despite the ongoing and quickly evolving pandemic, we look forward to having you all back on our campuses, and we are excited to embark on a successful semester. Further information regarding UNE's COVID-19 response can be found at [une.edu/onward](http://une.edu/onward). General questions can be directed to [onward@une.edu](mailto:onward@une.edu).

Sincerely,

Jen Deburro, M.Ed.

*Dean of Students, Vice President for Student Affairs*

Paul Berkner, D.O., FAAP

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