



## University of Maine System's COVID-19 Response

### Statewide leadership in Maine's fight against a global pandemic

#### PUTTING STUDENTS & EMPLOYEES FIRST

*"Since the beginning of this crisis, my professors, as well as campus and System leaders, have been committed to keeping the needs of students front and center."* –UMFK Nursing Student Irene Neal

- Reimbursed students \$12.8M in unused room and board within two weeks of campus closure.
- Provided pay and health benefit stability to our 4,700+ regular employees through FY20.
- Paid work study students through the spring semester, regardless of their remote work ability.
- Transitioned 210,000 credit hours online in just 10 days and saw 98.5% course completion rate.
- Led the nation in distributing \$8.9M in federal CARES emergency aid to 20,000+ students, some receiving direct payments of up to \$675.
- Provided students opportunity to earn free employer-recognized resiliency badge.
- Expedited millions in IT investments to support quality, flexible remote and hybrid learning.

#### PARTNERSHIPS TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH

*"When I participated in calls with UMaine, the first questions were always 'What are you seeing and what do you need?' And that's a really powerful signal and it was really important to how quickly we are able to get things done. I am just extremely bullish on working with UMaine."* –Jennifer Monti, MD, Maine Health

- Manufactured 4,000 bottles of testing solution at UMaine used by Maine National Guard to perform required fit tests of N95 masks for first responders and frontline health care workers.
- Produced thousands of gallons of in-demand hand sanitizer at UMaine and distributed to more than 100 health care organizations statewide.
- Deployed dozens of faculty and students to help with staffing surges in virus hotspots, including at the Maine Veterans Home in Scarborough.
- Graduated in-demand nurses from UMaine and medical lab techs from UMA and UMPI to support early entrance into the workforce.
- Designed and produced aerosol boxes at UMaine to protect frontline medical staff transporting potentially positive patients.
- Through UMaine, validated alternative designs and assisted hospitals with developing mask decontamination/sterilization protocols.
- Donated thousands of pieces of PPE and other needed medical supplies including ambulances to health care organizations, including Maine Health, Northern Light Health, InterMed and Penobscot Community Health Care.
- Vetted technical COVID-related science and medicine through UMaine faculty and graduate students and provided plain language briefings for City of Bangor and the public.
- Provided campus facilities in Portland and Farmington for meal preparation for healthcare workers at Central Maine Medical Center and temporary shelters in Lewiston and Portland.
- Assisted Maine's leading healthcare organizations with supply chain management, including access to alternative suppliers.
- Created design plans and code at UMaine for hobbyist 3D printing of in-demand infrared thermometers needed to reopen economy.

#### TOOLS FOR MAINE LEARNERS & EDUCATORS

*"We appreciate the UMS' offer to provide Wi-Fi access to Maine's K-12 students by opening their network to those students with MLTI devices. This will help expand options for our students who are trying to access remote learning, and is an example of the collaborative and creative problem-solving needed to ensure all students have the basic accessibility needed."* – Maine DOE Commissioner Pender Makin

Learn more about how Maine's public universities have led in the response to COVID-19 at [www.maine.edu/servingu](http://www.maine.edu/servingu)

- Created 200+ free Wi-Fi hotspots in Maine public school and library parking lots.
- Led development of a statewide framework for safely reopening Maine's colleges and universities, which have a \$4.5B impact.
- Provided free online PD for Maine adults who work with youth through UMaine Extension.
- Compiled community resource guide for adult learners through the UMS Office of Student Success and Credential Attainment.
- Launched Quaranteen virtual science chat series through UMaine Extension to connect Maine students to university researchers.
- Created new scholarship for frontline health care workers, first responders and essential workers to receive up to \$1,000 to attend USM.
- Partnered to develop Community Learning for Maine website, which provides free online teaching and learning resources during pandemic.

## RESOURCES FOR MAINE CITIZENS & COMMUNITIES

*"When we put out the call for shelter space, USM responded not only with the space but assistance in set-up and preparation as well. We opened a shelter 10 years ago and it took us about 18 months from start to finish to get it open. We've done this in less than two weeks." – Preble Street Director Mark Swann*

- Provided economic forecasting through UMaine for the State to evaluate COVID-19 impacts.
- Converted USM's Sullivan Gym (Portland) and UMPI's Wieden Gym into 24-7 shelters for individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Through Maine Law, student attorneys represented legal aid clients virtually to get life-saving protection from abuse orders.
- Provided free six-session online course examining the health, economic and legal implications of COVID-19, hosted by USM's Muskie School and the UMaine Graduate and Professional Center.
- Hosted weekly online chats for Maine seniors through the UMaine Center on Aging to provide pandemic health tips and social connection.
- Distributed food to six Oxford County pantries through UMaine 4-H Center at Bryant Pond.
- Launched new telepsychology program at UMaine to help people gain skills to manage stress reactions or emotional difficulties that have been exacerbated by the pandemic.
- Donated thousands of pieces of PPE to local, country and tribal governments, including City of Bangor, Penobscot Nation and Aroostook County Emergency Management Agency.
- Hosted multiple blood drives that allowed for physical distancing at USM's Gorham campus.
- Offered free online courses and resources in managing personal finances during the pandemic.

## SUPPORT FOR MAINE BUSINESSES & INDUSTRY

*"We would not have been able to weather this storm were we not able to shift gears to produce hand sanitizer by working with the university. To date, we've produced about 7,000 gallons. The university has been a huge asset to keeping our small business afloat." – Jesse Lupo, Mossy Ledge Spirits, Etna*

- Provided technical assistance to dozens of Maine brewers and distillers so they could produce tens of thousands of gallons of hand sanitizer necessary for businesses to reopen.
- Through UMaine, evaluated alternative materials and designs for masks for local manufacturers so they could be made in Maine.
- Created an online directory through UMaine Extension to connect Maine consumers to more than 450 local farms and seafood producers.
- Helped small businesses navigate pandemic regulations and access federal aid, through USM Small Business Recovery & Relaunch Initiative.
- Hosted weekly chats through UMaine Extension and provided other remote resources to ensure Maine farmers thrived during the pandemic.
- Provided technical assistance through UMaine Extension that allowed the State to fast-track temporary authorization for three rural Maine-based custom slaughter operations.
- Co-hosted through the University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center "Trend Talks" webinar series with Maine Outdoor Brands to help outdoor industry navigate changing landscape caused by COVID-19.