



Several campus community members have inquired about managing staff, student and faculty illness, should it occur. At the moment, we are continuing with the semester as usual, and it is important to note that we already have a protocol in place for regular illnesses: All who feel ill should practice self-isolation, see a physician if illness is concerning and/or prolonged, and come back to class or work with a physician's note to account for absences.

We encourage all to use safe practices: wash hands frequently, cover their noses and mouths while sneezing/coughing; get plenty of rest.

The university strongly encourages that we all restrict greetings to respectful nods and smiles, or elbow bumps to replace handshakes and hugs to reduce the possibility of spreading germs.

Please understand this is a continually developing and fluid situation with new guidance coming to us as data and information becomes available. As the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the University System of Maryland (USM) and State of Maryland update us with the latest information, UMES will continue to keep the campus community informed.