Office for Public Engagement COVID-19 Resources and Updates

The following is a weekly round-up of COVID-19-related community-engaged teaching and learning resources and policies for University faculty, staff, and students. For more info on how to navigate community-based activities during the COVID-19 crises, visit engagement.umn.edu.

Policy Updates

Update on Summer Non-Curricular Programs
All summer non-curricular events for May and June are to be cancelled (unless they can be offered online). Programs that start the last week in June and continue into July are considered June events and are therefore subject to cancellation. The University will determine cancellation needs for events taking place in July and August for non-curricular events in mid-May. Stay connected with the latest updates by visiting the COVID-19 and Community-Based Activities webpage.

U of M OIT: Securing Zoom Meetings
The University's Office of Information Technology is offering recommendations to keep Zoom meetings secure and free from disruption. For specific guidance about teaching online using Zoom, see Zoom: Teach Online Class Sessions.

Youth Virtual Programs Required to Register
All online/virtual youth programs are still required to register via the University's Youth Central website. If a program has previously registered and is now transitioning to online programming, please contact Jazmin Danielson, Youth Safety and Compliance Manager (dani0203@umn.edu). All participant waivers need to include information about online activity; online programming guidelines can be found here. Also, all University staff involved in youth programs with online activities need to complete an orientation of the University's guidelines. For questions, please contact Jazmin Danielson (dani0203@umn.edu).

General COVID-19 Resources

Current Policies Regarding Community-Based Activities
Visit the COVID-19 and Community-Based Activities webpage often for updates on policies, recommendations, and resources pertaining to Spring, Summer, and Fall community-based research, teaching, and learning activities. Also with information on policies, the site includes links to key resources for faculty, students, and staff involved in community-engaged activities.

Making Connections - Making a Difference
Do you have a question, idea, opportunity, or need related to COVID-19 activities that can be addressed through a University-community collaboration? Do you have an idea for a community project that you want to advance? Submit your information to the COVID-19 Making Connections - Making a Difference site and an Office for Public Engagement staffer will connect with you to follow up on your submission.

Sign-Up and Volunteer Opportunities with U-CAN
The University COVID-19 Action Network (U-CAN) is a coalition of willing faculty, staff, and students that are helping to support COVID-19 response, recovery, and resilience efforts. If your unit or department would like to be connected to this effort and be called upon for certain COVID-19 initiatives, please complete the U-CAN Resource Group form where you can also view the units and groups that are willing and able to take on the initiatives. UCAN is also seeking volunteers to assist with communications and project management tasks. To volunteer for these current opportunities, please sign up in this spreadsheet and submit a resume to sparc@umn.edu. Each position has space to sign up three people for 3 months at a time. Of these 3 people, U-CAN will select 1 volunteer as primary and the other two will be alternate volunteers for that position. Slots are filled on a first come first served basis and the selection of primary versus alternate volunteer will be made based on the individual’s qualifications for the
specific job. U-CAN asks that you commit 10 hours a week if you can to the position.

**Supporting Community Partners**

**Strategies for Leading and Sustaining Community Partnerships during COVID-19:** Featuring the U of M Public Engagement Network and members of the Campus-Community Liaison Council— 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 22

Join us for the University's Office for Public Engagement virtual discussion on ways to continue to support community partnerships during COVID-19. [RSVP](#) by April 20 to receive the ZOOM link.

**Minnesota AmeriCorps Emergency Response Initiative** — Deadline: Wednesday, April 22

ServeMinnesota and its partner programs are launching the Minnesota AmeriCorps Emergency Response Initiative. This new initiative is designed to help organizations to serve communities, especially in the areas of food insecurity, distance learning, and support for older adults coping with social isolation.

**Use Your Sewing Skills to Create Masks for Frontline Health Workers**

The [University COVID Action Network (U-CAN)](#) is in discussions with the Office of Academic Clinical Affairs and some community groups about the possibility of supporting DIY mask production as coverings for N95 masks in the clinic, for essential workers here at the University and, potentially, for community health care organizations and long-term care facilities. U-CAN is looking for volunteers with expertise in mask production and/or sewing from patterns and who have a sewing machine to help with these masks in case the opportunity does come through. To volunteer for this opportunity, please sign up in this [spreadsheet](#).

**The Big Coloring Book of Grumpy's and Palmer's**

Coloring Books for a Cause has released the Big Coloring Book of Grumpy's and Palmer's with the proceeds benefiting the staff of both bars located in Minneapolis' Cedar Riverside neighborhoods. The illustrations were made by featured artists, bartenders, or regulars from both establishments.

**Community-Engaged Teaching and Learning Resources**

**U of M Information Technology: Teaching with Technology Webinars**

The University's Academic Technology Support Services is offering a series of webinars to help faculty use the technology tools during alternative instruction. A unique set of webinar offerings will be available each week.

**Course Proposals for Understanding and Responding to Pandemics**

The University of Minnesota is launching a curriculum in Summer 2020 for students who are interested in studying topics related to our current situation. This provides the opportunity for the development of new courses. Courses don’t need to be COVID-19 specific and can be rooted in science, policy, history, psychology, economics, and more. Please visit the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost for further information.

**Need to Complete a Summer Internship or Capstone Project?**

Until further notice, community-based research and teaching activities offered through Summer 2020 are to move to an alternate, remote form of community partner exchange, or be temporarily suspended or rescheduled through mutual agreement. If you believe you are in a situation in which conducting your community-engaged activity remotely (or having to suspend it altogether) will have a serious, irreparable, detrimental effect on you or your community partner, you can submit a petition to receive an exemption to the University's current "remote-only" policy.

- For exemptions pertaining to health-focused internships, clinical work, and community-engaged research, contact the Office of Clinical Affairs at [clinicalaffairs@umn.edu](mailto:clinicalaffairs@umn.edu).

- For exemptions pertaining to non-health-focused internships, community-engaged research, or other community-based activities, submit this [form](#).

**Community-Engaged Research Resources**

**Leveraging Our Community-Engaged Research: Policy Change and Community Development** — 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 21

As the current health crisis is likely to intensify existing inequalities, it's more important than ever to use
proven and tested community-engaged tools for positive change. Sponsored by the University's Office for Public Engagement, this live group conversation will explore the pathways for utilizing research to create change.

**U of M CTSI COVID-19 Rapid Response funding** — **Deadline: Friday, May 22**
The Child Health COVID-19 Rapid Response Program seeks proposals for novel studies stemming from COVID-19 that affect child or adolescent health, with research teams including investigators from the University of Minnesota and Children’s Minnesota.

**WFMN COVID-19 Women and Girls Response Fund** — **Deadline: Friday, May 8**
The Women's Foundation of Minnesota seeks grant proposals from organizations and initiatives serving women and girls experiencing gender-based violence, older women, women and girls who need short-term financial support for everyday needs due to the effects of COVID-19.

**Other Events and Deadlines**

- **April 21** [U of M China Center and IHRC: How Xenophobia Spreads Like a Virus](#)
- **April 21** PreK-12 Network Virtual Programming Staff Orientation Guidelines Training (email dani0203@umn.edu for Zoom link)
- **April 24** [U of M Extension: Retaining community businesses: An example from Thief River Falls](#)

**Additional Resources**

**U of M Health and Safety: Work-from-Home Ergonomics**
The University's Health and Safety Work-from-Home Ergonomics fact sheet offers information and tips on how to make a home office healthier and more comfortable. [Online ergonomic evaluations](#) are now available.

For additional information about engagement-related activities, please visit [engagement.umn.edu](#).

The [Office for Public Engagement](#) is part of the [University of Minnesota](#) Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost.