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

Current policies regarding community-based activities
Access the University's COVID-19 and Community-Based Activities webpage for the latest updates on policies, recommendations, and resources pertaining to Spring, Summer, and Fall community-based research, teaching, and learning activities. Along with information on policies, the site includes links to key resources for faculty, students, and staff involved in community-engaged activities.

Resources and Opportunities

U of M PHDR Community Resources
The University's Program in Health Disparities Research has developed a list of resources in a variety of formats for University faculty, staff, students, and community members in response to the COVID-19 Health Emergency. Its program staff is actively building the resources list; requests for information on additional sources should be emailed to phdr@umn.edu.

U of M COVID Action Network (U-CAN) Mask Makers seeks volunteers
Volunteers with expertise in mask production and/or sewing from patterns and who have a sewing machine are needed to join U-CAN Mask Makers. To volunteer for this opportunity, please sign up in this spreadsheet.

U of M COVID Action Network (U-CAN) seeks volunteers for 3D printing "ear-savers"
U-CAN Mask Makers are partnering with the University's Anderson Student Innovation Labs to 3D print "ear savers" that will be distributed alongside the masks in order to limit the discomfort from elastic pulling on ears. If you have past experience with 3D printing and are willing and able to volunteer, sign up here.

U of M COVID Action Network (U-CAN) seeks volunteers for social distancing e-book
U-CAN is compiling an e-book of resources of various social distancing guidelines and seeks volunteers for content curation, design, and maintenance. To volunteer for this opportunity, please sign up HERE.

OPE offer online matchmaking resource for University, community requests
The Office for Public Engagement's Making Connections—Making a Difference online service offers community members and internal stakeholders a way to ask questions and offers ideas about University-community collaborations focused on COVID-19; Connect with a University Partner helps community members connect with University resources on longer-term projects and topics beyond the current pandemic.

Supporting Community Partners

Caring for Mental Health in Communities of Color During COVID-19
Lack of access to testing, fear of being profiled while wearing face masks, and other issues are increasing toxic stress and straining mental health in communities of color. Learn what one leader is doing about it HERE.
U of M CIDRAP provides tips for effective COVID-19 messaging

“Effective COVID-19 crisis communication” is the second report in a multipart series titled “COVID-19: The CIDRAP Viewpoint, published by the University’s Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP). The report provides government and public health leaders, communications professionals, and others responsible for COVID-19 messaging with six key principles of delivering messages to the public.

U of M ICI conducts survey: direct support professionals (DSPs) in a time of crisis

The University’s Institute on Community Integration has conducted a survey that measures the pandemic’s impact on the essential employees working with people with disabilities. The online survey captures information about whether DSPs are officially classified as essential workers in their communities, how their work has changed as a result of the pandemic, what consequences of COVID-19 they have observed in the people they support, and more.

Community-Engaged Teaching and Learning Resources

Connecting student to remote service opportunities

The Office for Public Engagement is working to connect University students to remote service opportunities, especially students looking to fulfill academic program/course requirements, with organizations in need of materials or volunteers. Please submit needs and opportunities using this form.

Need to complete a summer internship or capstone project?

On May 11, Governor Walz issued Executive Order 20-52, which authorizes students in critical sectors to return to safe higher education institutions for completion of a postsecondary credential. Executive Order 20-52 and Executive Order 20-48 allow student interns and volunteers to conduct on-site activities when certain conditions are met. Given the University’s remote-only instruction policy for all summer educational activities, students must first file a petition and receive an official exemption before conducting any on-site conduct community-based or other type of field-based activities. For exemptions related to health-focused internships, clinical work, and community-engaged research that involve person-to-person contact, petitions should be filed with the Office of Clinical Affairs at clinicalaffairs@umn.edu. For all other exemptions for on-site internships, community-engaged research, or other community-based activities, submit this form.

Community-Engaged Research Resources

U of M CTSI child health COVID-19 Rapid Response funding — Deadline extended: Monday, June 15
The University’s Clinical and Translational Science Institute 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.

U of M CTSI COVID-19 Rapid Response funding — Deadline: Monday, June 15
The University’s Clinical and Translational Science Institute seeks proposals intended to identify and fund early-stage projects in which the primary goal is to develop solutions that address direct or indirect healthcare impacts created or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other Events and Deadlines

- June 3 U of M College Readiness Consortium’s COVID-19 and Summer Precollege Virtual Programs Weekly Discussion (Email dani0203@umn.edu for Zoom link)
- June 9 U of M PHDR “Health Disparities Research Challenges during the COVID-19 Epidemic”

Additional Resources

U of M faculty publish Tibetan Medicine and You: A Path to Wellbeing, Better Health, and Joy
University faculty Miriam Cameron and Tenzin Namdul’s e-book explains how to create a happy, healthy mind and body and is helping people cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. This e-book is available for free to University faculty, staff, and students.

COVID-19 and Racial/Ethnic Disparities
Racial and ethnic minorities, and socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals are disproportionately
affected by COVID-19. In an online editorial published in JAMA Viewpoint, the underlying causes of disparities are discussed.

For additional information about engagement-related activities, please visit engagement.umn.edu.

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