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
Visit 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.

Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)
The federal government recently passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) to provide emergency leave to employees who are unable to work or work remotely for reasons related to COVID-19. The act took effect on April 1. See this notice from the U.S. Department of Labor.

U of M Zoom to require meeting passwords when joining by telephone beginning May 16
Participants using Zoom's desktop client or web browser will experience no change. Participants joining by telephone will be required to enter a 6-digit password to enter Zoom meetings or webinars. The password will be included in the auto-generated invitation to the Zoom event. For tips on how to improve appropriate access and maintain security of Zoom meetings, click HERE.

Resources and Opportunities

U of M University Services ensures access to personal protective equipment
University Services offers guidelines for ordering personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning materials through U Market Services for employees who have been approved to return to their workplace. Returning faculty and staff can find training and information about maintaining clean spaces and the proper use of masks and other PPE by visiting the University Health and Safety website.

U of M CIDRAP provides tips for effective COVID-19 messaging
"Effective COVID-19 crisis communication," the second report in a multipart series titled "COVID-19: The CIDRAP Viewpoint," was published by the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) at the University of Minnesota. 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.

Connecting community and University resources and needs
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.

Strategies for Supporting Community-Engaged Research and Teaching During COVID-19
Faculty, staff, and students throughout the University's five campus system are invited to join the University's Office for Public Engagement's continuing series of virtual discussions on conducting community-engaged research and teaching and supporting community partners during COVID-19. Discussions focus on a variety of topics and take place via Zoom. Want more of these discussions? Please take this very short survey to help us gauge interest in continuing this series.
Supporting Community Partners

**U of M Crookston to host small business webinar series to prepare community businesses for recovery**

U of M Crookston, in partnership with the Northwest Minnesota Small Business Development Center and the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, will kick off a six-part webinar series focused on what the community and businesses can do to prepare for recovery. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

**Apply for AmeriCorps Emergency Response — Deadline: Wednesday, May 20**

Are you looking for a full-time position this summer? As an AmeriCorps Emergency Response Member, you will help organizations respond to significant needs in their community related to COVID–19. Service could include a combination of several response tasks such as emergency food distribution, distance learning, support for the homeless and older, and more.

Community-Engaged Teaching and Learning Resources

**U of M’s Acara, Institute on the Environment is offering COVID-related summer courses**

Are you seeking to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in meaningful ways? Check out these 3-credit summer courses focused on building a better future: **GCC 3005/5005 Innovation for the Public Good: Post-Pandemic Venture Design**, and **SUST 3480 COVID-19 and the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals: Resilience, Connections, and Threats**

**U of M students looking for remote service opportunities**

Do you or your community partner know of a community need that might be fulfilled by a University of Minnesota student? The Office for Public Engagement is working to connect students to 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](mailto: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

**Community Health Improvement Partnership of Hennepin County funding — Deadline: Wednesday, May 20**

Mini grants of $250 to $500 available for Hennepin County community members or small teams who have local ideas and solutions to improve mental well-being and housing stability in your communities and who need a small amount of money to carry them out. People representing communities of color or indigenous populations are strongly encouraged to apply. For additional information, contact Karen Nikolai.

**U of M CTSI child health COVID-19 Rapid Response funding — Deadline: Friday, May 22**

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.

**CDC Tribal Public Health Capacity in Coronavirus Preparedness and Response funding — Deadline: Sunday, May 31**

This Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funding opportunity is intended to carry out surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory capacity, infection control, mitigation, communications, and other preparedness and response activities for COVID-19.

**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

May 18  U of M CTSI seminar: "Keeping your research alive through COVID-19"
May 20  U of M Crookston Community and Business Series: reopening your business
May 20  U of M College Readiness Consortium's COVID-19 and Summer Precollege Virtual Programs Weekly Discussion (Email dani0203@umn.edu for Zoom link)
May 21  U of M School of Public Health Webinar: community health during COVID-19
May 22  Campus Compact's Friday Virtual Discussions: engaging in long-term community recovery

Additional Resources

Third U of M–developed testing strategy may help trace spread of COVID-19
Researchers at Duluth’s Medical School are leading a study to monitor the prevalence of COVID-19 across Minnesota by testing samples from wastewater treatment plants. The study may help public health officials trace the spread of COVID-19, especially in areas where people have the virus but are asymptomatic and thus haven’t been tested.

U of M SPH podcast Health in All Matters: A Misinformation Pandemic
Episode 8 of the School of Public Health podcast Health in All Matters features a number of experts discussing misinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic. Misinformation and disinformation is causing confusion and, in some cases, death. The episode considers how to separate truth from lies and stop the spread of bad information.

Rice University's Project to study safe voting practices during COVID-19
Rice University's Center for Civic Leadership is partnering with faculty on a multidisciplinary project to study safe voting practices in the era of COVID-19. They will explore voting mechanisms to glean more information about best practices to conduct a safe, secure, and fair election in the fall amid the COVID-19 crisis. Read more about the project here.

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