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
Check out 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.

U of M Fall 2020 Scenarios Advisory Team
The Fall 2020 Scenarios Advisory Team is developing a framework of recommendations for delivery of the academic mission in fall 2020 across a continuum of potential scenarios that span in-person and distanced strategies and potential hybrid scenarios in the context of COVID-19.

U of M University Health and Safety tips for mask use
The University Health and Safety office has created a webpage on Using Cloth Face Covers (Masks) that includes tips on types of cloth masks, how to put on and take off cloth masks, and the care and storage of cloth masks.

U of M Office of Undergraduate Education COVID-19 student support webpage
The Office of Undergraduate Education's student support webpage offers COVID-19 related updates and resources to help undergraduate students succeed.

Resources and Opportunities

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.

U of M Facilities Management: Safer Each Step
Facilities management's Safer Each Step poster outlines our individual COVID-19 safety commitments to our University of Minnesota community. The poster is available for download and will be displayed systemwide in prominent places in campus buildings to protect ourselves, our colleagues, and our communities.

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.

Supporting Community Partners

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 Crookston to host small business webinar series to prepare community businesses for recovery
University of Minnesota 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.

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 safer 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

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 27 U of M Crookston Community and Business Series: creating a strategic partnership
May 27 U of M College Readiness Consortium's COVID-19 and Summer Precollege Virtual Programs Weekly Discussion (Email dani0203@umn.edu for Zoom link)
For additional information about engagement-related activities, please visit engagement.umn.edu.

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