

TEAM **M** MSE

Get ready for an Amaizing fall!

It's October already? Unbe-leaf-able! While this month has some tricks to be sure (Covid is still on the march and no fall break:-()), we also have some treats to look forward to: in the next issue we will be announcing two contests -- one new and one familiar, so stay tuned! In the meantime, it's going to be a wonderful week weather-wise, so we hope you can take some time to get outside and enjoy the sunshine and glorious fall colors...before the season changes, and we have to 'leaf' it all behind.

Questions, comments or ideas for Team MSE newsletter? Contact Kristen at krisfres@umich.edu.

We'd love to hear from you!



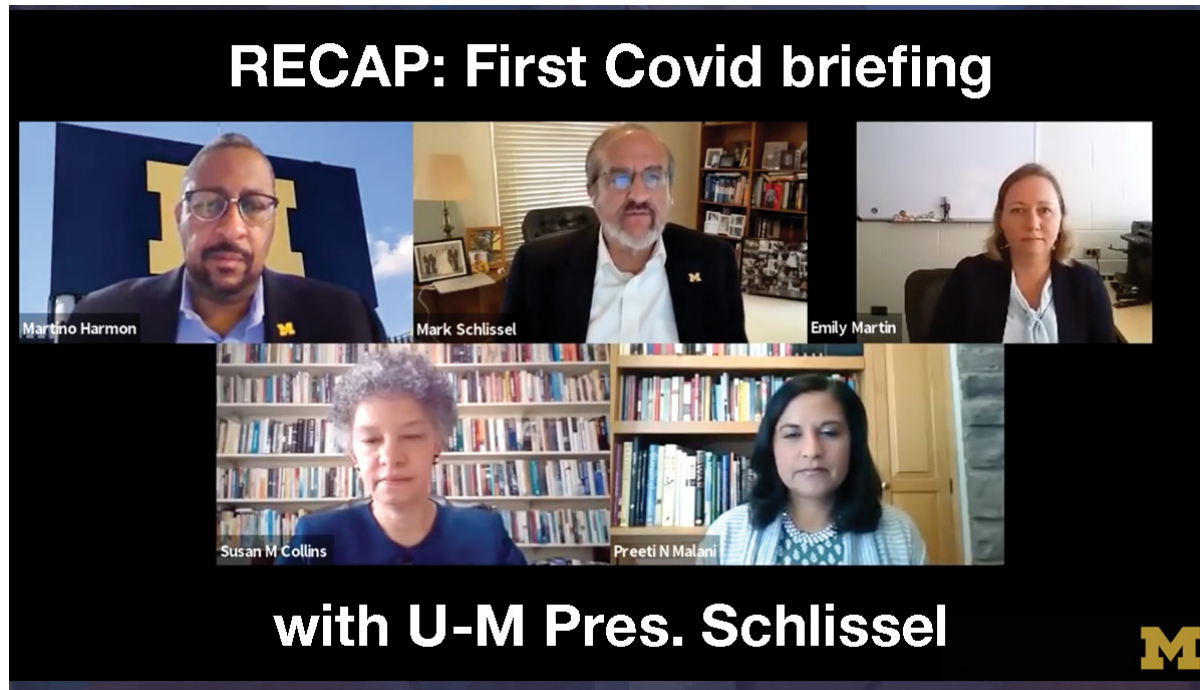
Campus COVID Status

Covid cases reported at NCRC, HH Dow, but NO impact on MSE

On Saturday EHS was notified that an individual who spent time at the Biological Sciences Research Building and in Building 26 of NCRC tested positive for COVID-19. The affected person last visited each building on September 29. Spaces where the case was present have been cleaned/disinfected or have been isolated. B26 has active labs on all 4 floors, including the vivarium space. Two MSE faculty research groups are located in B26, but their labs and personnel were not affected, and to our knowledge no one has been contacted by EHS for contact tracing. *If you are not directly contacted by an EHS contact tracer, there is no increased risk of exposure and there is no need to quarantine or isolate.*

EHS was also notified on 10/3/2020 that an external visitor from a company visited a Mechanical Engineering department manufacturing lab on the first floor of H.H. Dow and has tested positive for COVID-19. The visitor was in the building on 10/2/2020. The lab was closed on Monday for further cleaning and disinfection and the space is expected to open today for regular usage. *To our knowledge, no one in MSE working in HH Dow has been contacted by EHS for contact tracing.*

[Click here for U-M's COVID-19 Dashboard](#)



The [first of what is to be a weekly video briefing](#) about issues related to COVID-19 on campus took place Oct. 2 with President Mark Schlissel, Provost Susan M. Collins, Vice President for Student Life Martino Harmon, Chief Health Officer Preeti

Malani and Associate Professor of Epidemiology Emily Martin. In case you missed the briefing, highlights from the session include:

Off-campus gatherings still biggest driver of case numbers

Last week UHS reported seeing 400 students with symptoms, with only a few testing positive for COVID-19. While the South Quad outbreak has been contained, social gatherings off-campus--more than interactions in dining halls, dorms or libraries--continue to be the primary determinant in the transmission of the virus.

Q: Since most of U-M classes are remote, why hold partial in-person classes?

In answering this anonymously submitted question, the panel laid out the reasoning behind holding in-person classes:

- At least some in-person allows for more engagement with peers and university services.
- Addresses concern for students of lesser means who have concerns at home with safety, food insecurity, etc.
- Helps with students' psychological well-being, especially loneliness.

Q: Why doesn't U-M conduct weekly testing for free like other schools?

In response to this question, the panel noted:

- During the planning phase, there were thoughts that too much testing might put a strain on potentially low supplies at U-M Medicine, especially given the short supply of tests available during the summer.
- Now with the ramping up of saliva testing, there is opportunity to allow more testing which will include those that are asymptomatic.
- Testing doesn't prevent disease, it detects it; masks, hand washing, distancing are the tools to help prevent disease.

NOTE: The next Covid briefing with President Schlissel will be this **Friday, Oct. 9, 1:00-2:00 p.m.** Zoom link: <https://umich.zoom.us/j/97123053324>

If you're feeling sick

It is very important that U-M students who feel ill or are concerned about possibly having contracted COVID-19 get their testing done [through EHS](#). It's fast and easy.

Feeling overly stressed? You aren't alone.

One of the biggest tolls this pandemic is taking is on mental health. If you are struggling with stress and/or having a hard time staying positive, remember there are resources available that are ready to help you **right now**:

- **SilverCloud:** An [interactive mental health portal](#) that can help you sleep better and manage stress anxiety and depression.
 - **C.A.R.E. Center:** The [central hub to assist engineering students](#) through a variety of challenging circumstances, both inside and outside of the classroom.
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We've all heard that a fall Covid wave may be on the horizon, which is why we're taking a closer look at the metrics U-M is using to evaluate whether or not to take additional mitigation action. Note that as of today, October 6, only two of the response metrics (highlighted in yellow) have been met:

1. Increases in Disease Spread:

- **5 days of sustained increases in student, staff, or faculty infections**
- 5 days of sustained test positivity over 20% (inclusive of all testing)
- Over a 14-day period, 3 clusters that exceed the ability of capacity for full contact tracing
- 1 cluster with >100 contacts
- **In Washtenaw County, >70 new cases per million**; sustained 10% positivity, or 3 consecutive days of +10% case increase

2. Strain on Public Health Capacity:

- Inability to provide prompt case investigation (24 hours from health department notification to U-M in at least 75% of cases) and prompt contact tracing (48 hours to

- first attempt for 50% of contacts) for our faculty/staff/student population
- Isolation and quarantine housing projected to reach capacity within 14 days, or 80% of capacity of 600 beds

3. Strain on Community and Campus Health System Capacity:

- Inability to assess symptomatic individuals and return results within a reasonable and actionable turnaround time (≤ 3 days)
- Local health systems experiencing internal surge levels (e.g., including >300 visits per day for UHS, local medical systems no longer able to sustain normal levels of non-COVID care)
- Diminished inpatient and critical care bed capacity at Michigan Medicine
- Diminished supply of PPE

Other Campus News



U-M President Mark Schlissel responds in a video to the concerns that have prompted public criticism of him recently: public safety, structural racism, economic equity, and the horrific sexual misconduct of Martin Philbert over many years.

In a recent address, Rackham Graduate School Dean Mike Solomon laid out his



Top 5 goals:

- 1) Student mental health/wellness
- 2) Anti-racism goals and initiatives
- 3) Students' experience with disabilities accommodations report
- 4) Effects of federal policies
- 5) Planning for extended time to degree

[Read full address here.](#)

Upcoming MSE EVENTS



Friday's seminar speaker: MSE Prof. Wenhao Sun

One of MSE's newest faculty members, Assistant Professor Wenhao Sun will present "The interplay between thermodynamics and kinetics in solid-state ceramic synthesis" this Friday, Oct. 9 at 10:30 a.m. The Zoom link is umich.zoom.us/j/98650987736, password: 047541.

This Friday's MMS Luncheon: MC3 Cardiopulmonary

Scott Merz of MC3 Cardiopulmonary, a biomedical device company based in Dexter, Mich., will be speaking this Friday (10/9) at 11:30 am. Student attendees will be eligible to win one of two \$15 Grubhub coupons from our raffle! Here is the Zoom [link](#). Hope to see you there!



GO VOTE, GO BLUE!

We need your vote!

U-M is participating in the [Big Ten Voting Challenge](#). This is a non-partisan effort to



increase student voter participation in all elections. The average student voter rate across the Big Ten Conference spiked to 43 percent for the 2018 midterm elections, surpassing the national average student voting rate of 40 percent, and more than doubling the national student voting rate of 19 percent in 2014. The goal is to increase U-M student voter turnout even more for this upcoming election.

[CLICK HERE](#) for important information about the Nov. 3 election



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