

Staying Connected with Campus Services



There are many positive things happening these days with the arrival of spring, restrictions being relaxed, and feeling more free to connect safely with friends and family. Take time to enjoy the moment. Check in with yourself and loved ones. Your friends at Campus Services continue to care and appreciate you.

DDS Tackles COVID Challenges

Campus Services departments have all been significantly impacted by the pandemic, but the challenges faced by Dartmouth Dining really take the cake! Throughout the past 15 months, Dining employees have demonstrated creativity, perseverance, and incredible teamwork, all with a can-do attitude.

Operationally, Dining has had to change menus and creatively source products as the nation's supply chain to produce and deliver goods has been disrupted. There have been significant shortages in chicken due to a shut-down of major suppliers. For an entire month Dining couldn't source cereal, which students eat for breakfast, lunch and dinner! Spices have been hard to come by, too. Director Jon Plodzick noted that McCormick, our primary spice vendor, started focusing on packaging spices for retail sale, making it more difficult for customers such as restaurants, colleges, and universities to obtain spices in bulk.

Chef Chris Kaschak and his team have been incredibly resourceful in developing menus during the pandemic, as the number of students with food allergies has spiked. At one point there were 395 allergens out of ~1200 students on campus. During the initial quarantine period of each term, Dining employees worked in teams with some focused on preparing menus and food, others on sourcing and organizing supplies such as To Go containers. The team has been particularly nimble when they've had to switch gears in just a few hours, from in-person seating to providing only packaged meals and back again.

Employees have missed having meaningful relationships with students, which is difficult to do behind the physical barriers of plexiglass and masks. Interestingly, though, the number of calls from parents to Dining managers has increased, with parents checking in on their child's specific dietary restrictions, or just calling to thank DDS for the incredibly job they're doing to provide tasty, home-cooked meals for the students.

When Dartmouth returns to more normal operations in the fall, there will be celebrations and joy in the Dining halls, for students and employees alike!



Serving To Go at the beginning of term

Thanks to Brian Beaty, the College Arborist, for taking a photo of stunning blossoms on this Adirondack crabapple tree. Wow!



Employees to Receive Payment

[EVP Rick Mills announced](#) last week that employees earning up to \$150,000 will be given a special one-time payment of \$1,000, before taxes, "in recognition of the unique circumstances of the past year and the financial challenges felt by many members of the Dartmouth community. The special payment is one way we can express our gratitude and say thanks." The payment will be made prior to June 30.

Relaxing COVID Restrictions

In last week's Community Conversations, Provost Helble announced a number of changes to COVID restrictions. He pointed to data which shows Dartmouth is experiencing the lowest positivity rate since regular testing was implemented last July. COVID case counts are falling in NH and VT, too. Here is a summary of restrictions which are being relaxed now and over the coming months.

As of May 21, indoor distancing requirements are reduced from 6 feet to 3 feet for all activities except eating, exercise, and performance. Groups of up to nine people may meet indoors in approved spaces, and groups of 10 to 25 people can meet outdoors with permission.

On June 1 Dartmouth plans to move to the "less limited" phase of its five-phase re-opening plan shown [here](#) and to allow in-person use of lab space.

On July 1, employees who have been fully vaccinated and have [uploaded](#) their vaccination information will need to be tested only once/month. Employees who have not met these requirements will need to be tested twice weekly. Also on July 1, Dartmouth plans to end the daily Temperature & Self-Assessment (TSA) health screening requirement.

On Aug. 1, the College will begin transitioning to the full-access phase of the opening plan, with details provided in the upcoming weeks.

Details on all COVID-related topics are available at covid.dartmouth.edu/home.