

From: Zehle, Christa H <Christa.Zehle@med.uvm.edu>

Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 4:43 PM

Subject: Updates for LCOM Students

Dear students,

As we continue to navigate the changing environment as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, I wanted to connect with all of you and provide some recent updates. Please see the attached message from Dean Page in response to the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order issued by the Vermont State Governor Phil Scott on March 24, 2020. As a result, all LCOM faculty, staff and students are expected to remain in their homes and work remotely.

What does this mean for you as a student?

Most importantly, we are still available and accessible to you. We have ensured that our faculty and staff have the resources they need to successfully support you remotely. This includes our technology services center who can assist you with any hardware or access issues.

Who should I contact if I have any barriers to successfully engage in the curriculum remotely?

For curriculum issues please contact the [curriculum team](#).

For technology issues, including hardware and access issues, please submit a [footprint](#).

For additional resources please see the attached document, "Student Resource list".

Can I access the LCOM facilities?

Per the order please remain at home and do not access LCOM facilities. If this creates challenges for you to successfully engage in the curriculum remotely, please notify us using the information above.

What does this mean for clinical activities?

Clinical activities will need to be suspended until April 20, 2020 for all medical students. At this time, students will remain enrolled in their courses and we will provide additional updates as they become available. The Medical Education Leadership Team and Medical Curriculum Committee in collaboration with our course directors and affiliate site leadership are developing contingency plans to ensure that students will obtain the necessary clinical experience and meet their graduation requirements despite the pandemic. So if you can, leave the worrying to us 😊

How can I help support the COVID-19 preparedness and response effort?

An LCOM Cares Service Corp Task Force has been developed with student, faculty and staff participation to help coordinate volunteer opportunities. More information on volunteer opportunities both locally and possibly nationally will hopefully be available soon.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we navigate this challenging situation together. Be safe, be well.

With gratitude,

Christa Zehle, MD on behalf of all of our faculty and staff involved in our medical education program

Christa H. Zehle, MD

The Robert Larner, MD College of Medicine at the University of Vermont | Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education

The Robert Larner, MD College of Medicine at the University of Vermont | Associate Dean for Students

The University of Vermont Children's Hospital | Associate Professor of Pediatrics

The University of Vermont Children's Hospital | Pediatric Hospitalist

MEDICAL STUDENT EDUCATION OFFICE

[Drop In Sessions](#)

The Courtyard at Given, N-127 | 89 Beaumont Avenue | Burlington, VT 05405-0068

telephone 802.656.0722

Christa.zehle@med.uvm.edu | www.uvm.edu/medicine

Pronouns: she/her [[Why include pronouns?](#)]

Resources for LCOM Medical Students

Question or concern regarding:	Team/Person	Physical/Email address	Additional links
General questions	Medical Student Services	studentcomservices@med.uvm.edu	
Learning Environment Feedback	Dr. Nathalie Feldman	nathalie.feldman@med.uvm.edu	Learning Environment Webpage
Wellness	Dr. Lee Rosen	lee.rosen@med.uvm.edu	Student wellness resources
	Dr. Nathalie Feldman	nathalie.feldman@med.uvm.edu	Learning Environment Webpage
Academic support	Tim Moynihan	Timothy.M.Moynihan@med.uvm.edu	
Financial Considerations/Questions	Kari Brayden	Kari.Brayden@med.uvm.edu	
Computer Issues	COMTS	https://footprints.uvm.edu/	
Zoom Questions	COMTS	https://footprints.uvm.edu	
UVM CatCard/UVM ID Questions	UVM CATcard Services	catcard@uvm.edu	https://www.uvm.edu/catcard
UVM Medical Center Badge Questions	UVMHC Badge Office	badges@uvmhealth.org	
All Exam Delays			http://www.med.uvm.edu/studenthandbook/54024
Foundations Curriculum Questions	Dr. Karen Lounsbury	karen.lounsbury@med.uvm.edu	
	Dr. Jesse Moore	jesse.moore@med.uvm.edu	
RQ questions	Curriculum Team	curriculum.services@med.uvm.edu	
NMGI (Content Questions)	Dr. Rebecca Wilcox	rebecca.wilcox@uvmhealth.org	
PCR (Content Questions)	Dr. Stephen Berns	stephen.berns@med.uvm.edu	
Clerkship Curriculum Questions	Dr. Elise Everett	elise.everett@med.uvm.edu	
	Dr. Ellen Kulaga	ellen.kulaga@med.uvm.edu	
	Jacqueline Drouin	jacqueline.drouin@med.uvm.edu	
Advanced Integration Curriculum Questions	Dr. Shaden Eldakar-Hein	shaden.eldakar-hein@med.uvm.edu	
	Emma Faustener	emma.faustener@med.uvm.edu	
Prep for Practice Questions	Dr. Shaden Eldakar-Hein	shaden.eldakar-hein@med.uvm.edu	
	Emma Faustener	emma.faustener@med.uvm.edu	
3rd and 4th Year Advising	Dr. Shaden Eldakar-Hein	shaden.eldakar-hein@med.uvm.edu	
	Dr. Ellen Kulaga	ellen.kulaga@med.uvm.edu	

From: LCOM Office of the Dean <COMOfficeOfTheDean@med.uvm.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 3:39 PM

To: Gilwee, Vicki M <vicki.gilwee@med.uvm.edu>

Subject: STAY HOME/STAY SAFE ~ ON BEHALF OF DEAN PAGE ~

Dear Larner Community:

As per the [Governor's Executive Order](#), and guidance today from President Garimella, as of 5 p.m. today we are suspending all in-person activities at the Larner College of Medicine, and expecting all employees to respect the STAY HOME/STAY SAFE order. The College buildings will be locked and all work must be conducted from home until at least April 15, 2020. [Guidance on telework](#) was provided today by Wanda Heading-Grant, Vice President for the Division of Human Resources, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs.

Relevant exceptions to these policies on telework are individuals in health care or support thereof. We will identify any other individuals who are considered essential to on-campus work. There is exemption for essential research activities such as research related to COVID-19 and critical work related to animal and other organism populations. [Guidance](#) is provided by Richard Galbraith, MD, Vice President for Research. Further guidance specific to our College is attached to this email.

The College will continue to operate, albeit remotely. Our medical students will continue to take classes remotely and clinical courses are currently suspended. Graduate student classes are already on line, and accommodations are being made for remote research.

I recognize that, even with our preparation over the last few weeks, this is a major disruption for everyone's lives and leaves many questions unanswered. Further and frequent information will be provided by the College and the University.

I also understand the uncertainty, fear and anxiety that this current situation has brought about. Things will not always be this way. However, right now it is all of our responsibility to do everything we can to battle the greatest public health crisis in our lifetime. This is an amazing community, and I am reminded daily of how special our people are, and how we are committed to our missions of education, clinical care and research. Thank you for all you do and stay well.

Rick

Richard L. Page, M.D.
Dean, The Robert Larner M.D. College of Medicine
The University of Vermont
Given E-126, 89 Beaumont Avenue
Burlington, VT 05405

Office: 802-656-2156

Fax: 802-656-8577

richard.page@med.uvm.edu

Urgent - Only Essential Research Activities in LCOM Labs - March 25, 2020

To the LCOM Research Community:

Consistent with Vermont Governor Phil Scott's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order to take effect March 25, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. and our focus on social distancing and the health and well-being of our community, the Larner College of Medicine (LCOM) Office of the Dean has issued these revised standards related to laboratory research that are to be applied immediately. Specifically, *Principal Investigators/lab directors should immediately prepare for all on-campus LCOM research to be reduced to only essential research-related activities by 5:00 p.m., March 25, 2020.*

This is consistent with the Governor's Executive Order, and is also based on sound public health policy. The underlying principle is to help ensure that our faculty, staff, students, and trainees remain healthy and that our healthcare system does not become overwhelmed. Together, we need to do everything we can to curtail laboratory activities, both wet and dry, to the barest minimum levels.

Limited access to laboratories will be maintained so that essential research-related activities can continue. While the duration of these revised laboratory standards is unknown at present, we will aim to loosen them as soon as UVM and LCOM leadership deem the risk assessment appropriate to do so. You should assume that this will continue at least until April 15, 2020, consistent with the Executive Order.

Essential Research-Related Activities Include:

- Activity that if discontinued would pose a safety hazard.
- Activity that maintains critical equipment in facilities and laboratories.
- Activity that maintains critical samples, reagents, and materials.
- Activity that maintains animal populations.
- Activity that maintains critically needed plant populations, tissue cultures, bacteria, archaea, and other living organisms.
- COVID-19 related activity that has a timeline for deployment that could help to address the crisis.
- Activity in support of essential human subjects research (see guidance UVM Temporary Policy on Human Subjects Research Visits, March 16, 2020).
<https://www.uvm.edu/emergency/news/3/16/20-temporary-policy-human-subjects-research-visits>
- Clinical trial activity that if discontinued would negatively impact the patient care (see emailed LCOM guidance for OCTR and CRC Researchers and Research Staff, March 16, 2020).
- In rare cases, with approval of department chair and dean, research may be approved to continue based on loss of significant data and sample loss.

Formal approval will be required for a laboratory to remain open:

If you feel that your laboratory meets the above requirements, you must immediately submit a brief written request to the Senior Associate Dean for Research that describes the rationale for your request and includes the endorsement of your department head. If you are unsure whether aspects of your research constitute essential activities, please consult with the LCOM Senior Associate Dean for Research.

As a reminder, faculty members cannot and should not require graduate students or postdoctoral scholars to come to campus. Graduate students and postdoctoral scholars need to have express approval to remain in the laboratory from their advisor, the LCOM Associate Dean for Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Training, and the Dean of the Graduate College. For the latest guidance regarding the presence of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars in the laboratory see Message to Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars Regarding Telework in Support of Social Distancing – From the Dean of the Graduate College, March 24, 2020.

<https://www.uvm.edu/emergency/news/3/24/20-message-graduate-students-and-postdoctoral-scholars>

See UVM COVID-19 updates at <https://www.uvm.edu/emergency/covid-19-coronavirus-information-and-updates>

Scope:

This guidance applies to researchers in wet or dry research facilities on the LCOM campus.

Next Steps for Investigators:

- ***Beginning now:*** Determine what, if any, activities in your laboratory are essential.
 - Lab directors should have already completed and submitted the continuity planning survey and spreadsheet that they received on March 23rd.
 - Develop standard operating procedures for the back-up and security of data, research records, samples and materials, disposal of hazards, etc.
 - Identify minimal personnel and time commitments to maintain essential activities such as critical cell lines, and ensure adequate supplies of required consumables.
 - Develop a lab closure/project suspension checklist.
- ***Beginning March 26 access to labs will be available only for personnel who conduct essential research-related activities.***
 - Essential work in labs should be staggered so that minimal laboratory personnel are present at any one time.
 - Guidance regarding management of grants and contracts can be found at this link. <https://www.uvm.edu/spa>
 - The Animal Care Management facility will remain staffed to deliver essential care. Please contact John Lovelette John.Lovelette@med.uvm.edu or Alyssa Frizzell Alyssa.Frizzell@med.uvm.edu with queries.

- Undergraduates, external visitors and visiting scholars whose research is deemed essential must receive prior approval from the relevant academic dean and the Senior Associate Dean for Research for them to continue research in the lab.
- Maintain contact information for your students, postdocs, and staff, and review contingency plans and emergency procedures within your group. The lab directors should have already submitted this information with the continuity planning survey and spreadsheet that they received.
- Disinfect common laboratory areas and touch points (e.g. doorknobs, sink handles, freezer doors, telephones). See link to CDC prevention guidelines. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>
- New proposals: When writing new proposals, consider including research that can be conducted remotely. This will allow additional opportunities to continue research on new awards.

*This revised standards document has been liberally adapted from one released by Penn State University. https://www.research.psu.edu/covid_labs