

From: Zehle, Christa H
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 5:31 PM
Subject: Wednesday Wonders

Dear Students,

We are delighted to have all our students on campus! As we begin the academic year, and engage in our on-campus education, we feel fortunate that Vermont has experienced relatively low rates of COVID-19 infection. Therefore, it is important to recognize our shared responsibility as members of the medical community and future physicians, to follow state and university expectations both on and off campus to mitigate transmission of COVID-19 and engage in preventative behaviors, by making decisions that consider the health and safety of our entire community.

All students

Clinical: (per the most recent communication from UVM Medical Center on Wednesday, August 12, 2020)

- 1 PUI; No COVID-19 Positive.
- No longer testing all asymptomatic patients admitted to the hospital. Because of that, universal eye protection is required for all inpatient encounters
- Given the demand for inpatient care, we are moving back to a goal of 78% single occupancy instead of our current 96+%.
- As schools reopen, those treating outpatient symptomatic family members of Health Care Workers should test the household contacts because it has a significant impact on our ability to maintain workforce.
- Additional clinical resources:
 - [Inpatient-Outpatient PPE Guidelines \(08/07/2020 update\)](#)
 - [Eye Protection – 08/05/2020 Update](#)
 - [Face Shield Cleaning Instructions](#)

Dana Medical Library:

- The Dana Medical Library is open as of Monday, August 17, 2020. Access to the library will be restricted to those affiliated with LCOM, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, UVM Medical Center. It will be necessary for our constituents to use their CatCard to swipe in. In order to adhere to social distancing guidelines, library capacity is limited to 75 visitors at a time. People will be asked to return at another time if the library is at capacity. Seating is only available in open study spaces to accommodate social distancing protocols. The small group study rooms, the classroom, and the conference room are closed, and after-hours study will not be available. Additional [Dana Medical Library](#) information available on their website.
- [Review the email sent out regarding temporary suspension of print reserves...](#)

COVID-19 student testing

- **Will we be continuing with the weekly COVID19 nasal swab tests on Sat/Sun at the Davis Center?** The University plans to continue weekly testing for all students through mid-September and then will re-evaluate the frequency of testing. Surveillance testing will occur at the Davis center beginning the week of August 24th from 9 am – 9 pm Monday – Thursday and 9 am – 5 pm on Friday. The University plans to use the

CoVerified platform app to schedule COVID-19 tests and track results. Please let StudentCOMServices know if you are having trouble scheduling your testing during these times.

Quarantine: use this [tool](#) from UVM that helps you determine your need to quarantine and your options. Additional resources located below.

- [Traveling to Vermont](#)
- [Cross State Travel Information for Vermont](#)
- [COVID-19 Pop-up Testing FAQs](#)
- [Supportive Quarantine Pilot Program \(The City of Burlington\)](#)

Face Coverings

- Recently, the AAMC released [National Guidance on Face Coverings](#). Please take a moment to review the document including some additional [do's and don'ts](#) for masking wearing.

Clinical students

- The Office of Medical Student Education is providing all clinical level students with one face shield and one pair of eyeglasses. The University of Vermont has also provided us with masks to distribute to you: two white masks and a charcoal mask. The white mask is one-size-fits-all. The charcoal mask comes in two sizes: small-medium/large-extra-large. Students can stop by the Office of Medical Student Education at N-100 in Given Courtyard to pick up their face shields, eyeglasses and masks during regular office hours. Please email jdrouin@med.uvm.edu if you cannot stop by during regular office hours.
- Please see attached document for cleaning instructions for face shields.

Pre-clinical students (FAQs)

- **If we find ourselves in need of quarantining, will there be a fully remote, live Zoom option for classes? (In addition to the already available recorded classes, so we may have the opportunity to participate in TBL).** The curriculum was developed so that it can be delivered to students who are unable to come to campus due to symptoms or need to quarantine.
- **Are there any courses in which it would not be possible to keep up remotely, in which many absences would impact our grade or ability to pass?** Students who need to miss in-person activities may be required to make up some of these activities, however most have remote options and a student's grade or ability to pass will not be impacted as long as they are able to meet the goals and the objectives of the course. The course director and Associate/Assistant Dean for Students will assist students in this type of situation.
- **I have noticed that many universities are switching to full-remote mode after the Thanksgiving holiday for undergrad and grad students. I am wondering if LCOM has a similar plan, or if this would not be possible given our block schedule?** The LCOM semester will end December 18th (see [calendar](#)) and is currently planned to be delivered via our current in-person, synchronous and asynchronous format. We have informed students in prior communications to anticipate limited travel over the Thanksgiving holiday. Recommendations regarding travel for Thanksgiving will be based on the current Vermont Department of Health guidelines. We expect those will evolve in the coming months and we will do the best we can to provide you timely guidance regarding travel

- plans. At this time, we anticipate individuals will not be able to travel by public transportation for the Thanksgiving holiday.
- **Will we be able to travel during the 2-week December winter break and have the option to start the block remotely while following travel quarantine guidelines?** We anticipate students will be traveling over the winter break and are looking at how best to accommodate the need to quarantine. I will follow up with the curriculum team and provide additional information when available.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or we can support you in any way. We also encourage you to stop by and visit us, following physical distancing and prevention guidelines of course. 😊

With gratitude,
Christa Zehle and our Office of Medical Student Education team

Christa H. Zehle, MD
Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education
Associate Dean for Students
Office of Medical Student Education
Larner College of Medicine at The University of Vermont

Associate Professor of Pediatrics
Pediatric Hospitalist
Vermont Children's Hospital University of Vermont Medical Center

MEDICAL STUDENT EDUCATION OFFICE
[Drop In Sessions](#)
The Courtyard at Given, N-127
89 Beaumont Avenue
Burlington, VT 05405-0068
Office: 802.656.0722
Christa.zehle@med.uvm.edu | www.uvm.edu/medicine
Pronouns: she/her [[Why include pronouns?](#)]