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Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:58 PM

Subject: Wednesday Wonders - a day early!

Dear students,

Finally, some answers to the many questions that you have shared with us. I hope the information is helpful. As always, I am grateful for your patience and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or if we can support you in any way. Additional questions to be addressed via the Wednesday Wonders can be sent to [StudentCOMServices](#) or to your class student leadership. Congratulations to the class of 2024 who are finishing up their first semester of med school!, the class of 2023 who are nearing the end of their Foundations curriculum!, the class of 2022 who are more than half way through their Clerkship year!, and the class of 2021 who are practically doctors! Be well and have a great week as well as a wonderful and well deserved vacation!

With appreciation and gratitude,

Christa Zehle and the Office of Medical Student Education team

Email Attachments/Supplemental Content:

- [Email – Weekly Update COVID-19 Vermont 12-11](#)
- [2020-11-27 UVMHC Surgical and Procedural Guidelines](#)
- [NuvHealth COVID PPE Playbook 2020-11-04](#)
- [WORK CLEARANCE FOR EMPLOYEES AFTER LABORATORY CONFIRMED COVID-19 INFECTION OR SYMPTOMS OF COVID INFECTION](#)
- [COVID-19 EMPLOYEE WORK-RELATED EXPOSURE CLEARANCE](#)
- [Email – Relevant and Current Recommendations for UME Learners During COVID](#)
- [UVMHN COVID-19 Scocard](#)
- [Email – COVID-19 Hospital Status Report](#)
- [Email – Operational Census Management Planning](#)

VT Clinical updates: (per the most recent communications from UVM Medical Center Monday, December 14, 2020. Thank you again to Delaney Sztraicher for compiling this information to share with all of you!

- UVMHC: 11 COVID Positives in house – 7 of them are from Long Term Care Facilities in the Chittenden County community (either Nursing Homes or Assisted Living Facilities); 2 COVID Positives in the ICU; Doing fine with COVID bed readiness both on McClure 6 and ICUs.
- Elderwood Long Term care Facility: 48 COVID Positive patients; 29 COVID Positive employees; 6 patients with current mild-moderate symptomatology
- Majority of deaths are related to skilled nursing facility outbreaks.
- Cyber Attack Recovery: Malware was a successful phishing attempt independent from the other healthcare facility cyberattacks that occurred at the same time. This is under FBI investigation. If you see suspect emails in your mailbox – do not open – forward to abuse@uvmhealth.org. Approx. 50% of applications have been restored. McKesson PACS is now available in the Radiology Department - all studies are accessible!
- COVID Vaccine: 5500 doses of vaccine to be delivered to the State of Vermont in the next 2 weeks. State of Vermont is prioritizing the allocation of the vaccines. We anticipate that by week 3 of vaccine distribution, UVMHC will be able to reach nearly 7000 of our employees for vaccination. As of December 14th we have officially been allocated 975 doses from the Pfizer shipment for this week. Small vaccination clinic to take place tomorrow in Davis Auditorium. Robust plan to start vaccinating this Thursday and Friday. Prioritized areas for Phase 1A: McClure 6 (COVID Unit); Trauma/Critical Care/Pulm (Adult & Pediatric); ED; MICU; Respiratory Therapy; UCC/FAH COVID Testing; Anesthesia; Long Term Care Facility Providers
- For more information on the COVID-19 Vaccine: The Pfizer site is open and EUA factsheets are now available. www.cvdvaccine.com. EUA Factsheet for providers <https://selfservehosteu.pfizer.com/pfrrdownload/file/fid/77056> this replaces the package insert normally found with vaccines. EUA Factsheet for recipients <https://selfservehosteu.pfizer.com/pfrrdownload/file/fid/77051> this

replaces the VIS. The CDC released a COVID-19 Vaccination Communication Toolkit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/health-systems-communication-toolkit.html#faqs>

- VT Hospital Status Report at State level attached – outlines 7 day moving average comparisons.
- UVMHN COVID-19 Scorecard also attached – on the “Forecast” Tab, the trend appears favorable (current state represented by the black dots)

Shared Responsibility

- Thank you for your continued vigilance and adherence to institutional and state guidelines. At the press conference held on Friday, December 11, 2020, Health Commissioner Mark Levine, M.D. shared that Vermont did not see a “surge on a surge” of COVID-19 cases in the two weeks following the Thanksgiving holiday, however asked that Vermonters continue being cautious as cases remain high. (see attached document – Weekly Update on COVID-19 in Vermont)

Volunteer Opportunities

- If interested in volunteering, please review opportunities advertised by the [LCOMCares Service Corp](#) or email them ([LCOMCares Service Corp](#)) to express your interest. We anticipate volunteers will be needed for COVID-19 vaccine administration in both VT and CT.

FAQs

- **Given the current surge of COVID cases, what hybrid/online options are available for clinical students who have medical conditions that make them high risk?**
 - If you have concerns about participating in clinical activities at this time, please connect with Interim Associate Dean for Students, [Dr. Lee Rosen](#), or Assistant Dean for Students, [Dr. Ellen Kulaga](#), to discuss your options.
- **What is the status of CSEs? Connecticut campus students got an email saying they are cancelled in CT and VT, but Vermont students had in-person CSEs after that email was sent.**
 - For now, CT is remote and additional information will be shared by Associate Dean for Medical Education, Dr. Jon Rosen and Director of Simulation, Nuvance Health, John Leopold
 - Vermont is working on what will need to be remote and what will remain in person for clinical students and additional information will be shared by Director of Clerkships, Dr. Elise Everett and Director of Simulation Education and Operations in VT, Dr. Cate Nicholas.
- **How much PPE is considered adequate to keep students in the hospital? Are clerkship students going to get new N95 masks to replace the ones we got in July if we've already had to use them a few times?**
 - We continue to work closely with our clinical affiliates to ensure adequate PPE for all individuals involved in patient care.
 - PPE for students should be available at your clinical sites. If you feel you do not have adequate PPE please contact our curriculum coordinators, [Jacqueline Drouin](#) (Clerkship level) or [Emma Faustner](#) (Advanced Integration level)
 - Additional information from UVM MC regarding N95 masks:
 - N95 masks**
 - We currently have all fitted N95 mask brands and sizes in stock.
 - We are keeping the MOLDEX smalls and new white ones secure as these are walking away. People are taking more than their one a day. For the time being, the charge nurse will dispense these masks. We are waiting for confirmation from the PPE committee and will be reaching out to people who may need to be refit tested to another brand based on resource allocation and demand.
 - Please only use the brand and size Fitted N95 that you were fit tested to wear. The masks and brands are not interchangeable. These are not “universal” masks. There is a difference between a universal N95 and the fitted N95’s in our PPE carts and areas.
- **How are students being kept safe in the clinical environment?**
 - All patients, visitors, staff, students are screened for COVID-19 symptoms/exposure at entry to the VT and CT hospitals with symptom survey and temperature check.

- Everyone in the clinical space is required to wear a mask.
 - All patients are asked to wear a mask when staff/students/providers are in the patient rooms.
 - All patients in the VT and CT hospitals have a rapid COVID-19 test done prior to admission.
 - Students are asked not to enter the room of patients with known COVID-19 infection, Patients Under Investigation or Patients Under Monitoring.
 - PPE is available on all units. Students are instructed on appropriate PPE through discussion, written information and signage on patient doors.
 - Eye protection is required for all patient interactions and in-patient care spaces, which consists of goggles or face shields. Students are provided with reusable face shields and goggles by LCOM. Replacements are available if equipment becomes damaged.
 - All persons in the clinical space are asked to remain at home if they are ill. Seek medical care if appropriate. Test for COVID-19 with PCR test if any symptoms of COVID-19 and isolate until results have returned negative.
 - All staff/providers/students that have tested positive may not report to the clinical space until 10 days have passed since symptom onset (or a positive test), > 24 hours without fever and all other symptoms improving.
 - All staff/providers/students must follow the VT and CT Department of Health Travel restrictions.
 - Exposures are tracked and appropriate guidance is provided to close contacts.
 - Students on the UVM campus are getting weekly COVID-19 testing.
- **Anticipated vaccine status & timeline, there was the thought that if students are vaccinated, perhaps 4th years would not be covered as it would be anticipated that residencies vaccinate them.**
 - Vaccination distribution priorities are being developed and medical students are being considered in the planning process. We do not have any additional information about vaccine distribution at this time.
 - Attached please find information from the AAMC regarding medical student vaccination considerations. This information has been shared with senior leadership responsible for the vaccine distribution plans.
- **I know the answer is probably “we don’t know”, but any thoughts on match day, senior week, and commencement celebrations regarding the extent to which they will be remote or in person (mostly because we’re trying to plan these things now).**
 - We are currently planning on Match Day being remote. It is a bit too early to know if senior week or graduation will be in person or remote, however at this time anticipate that these will be remote.
- **Also, for that week preceding graduation, there was some confusion among students if that is something during which there are scheduled activities, and if so, will that be in-person or remote?**
 - The week preceding graduation includes Honors night and senior week activities. It is a bit too early to know if these events/activities will be in person or remote, however at this time anticipate that these will be remote.
- **What happens if you test positive for COVID-19?**
 - You will receive a phone call from a Student Health person or your Interim Associate Dean for Students (if he gets there first). UVM Strong notifies Dr. Lee Rosen and Dr. Zehle first thing and lets us know so we can help figure out where the student has been and where they might be going. The hope is to catch the student (and roommates or other obvious close contacts) before they go anywhere. Then you’ll begin your quarantine according to Vermont Department of Health Guidelines. Soon after, you’ll get a call from the Student Health Center to start participating in contact tracing.
 - In CT, Please contact Dr. Kulaga or Dr. Jon Rosen as soon as possible. Initiate social isolation. You will need to remain in social isolation for at least 10 days, until fever has resolved x 24 hours and other symptoms are improved.

- **What if it has been determined that I am a “close contact” with a person who has tested positive?**
 - If you learn that you are a close contact, then you should begin a quarantine according to VDH [guidelines](#). This [chart](#) shows the timeline for your isolation period. If you remain symptom free, you can test after 7 days and return to activities after a negative test result. The CT DPH [guidelines](#) are similar.

- **How will I complete my clinical rotation if I have to quarantine?**
 - You will contact the course director of the rotation and let them know you must stay home for a medical reason and the number of days you will need to miss. Course directors will make every effort to give you remote work to complete for as many of the goals and objectives of the rotation as possible.
 - It may be determined that you will need to make up some missed time later. In that case, you will receive an incomplete on the rotation and work with the course director to identify make-up days that will work for you and the faculty. It is worth noting that none of that will appear on your transcript. When you complete your make-up work, your transcript will show a pass just like any other rotation.
 - You can always contact the Interim Associate Dean for Students/Assistant Dean for Students, who can help with communication with course directors as needed.

- **What about 4th years who have to go to CT from VT for clinical rotation (e.g., the IM AI) and have to quarantine when they get back and have another clinical rotation right after that?**
 - The medicine AI is a required rotation that focuses on inpatient management skill development. You are expected to be present for clinical work for the duration of the rotation aside from excused absences which should be explicitly approved by the course director and the Interim Associate Dean for Students.
 - The medicine AI allows for 6 days of excused absences during the rotation; if there are more days that need to be missed due to COVID exposure, the course director can assign some remote work or find additional clinical experiences. For students with two rotations in a row in different states that cannot be moved, the course directors and Dr. Rosen can provide excused absences to “split the difference” between the end and the beginning of the two rotations and allow for remote days during the quarantine process.
 - **Note: students are still expected to follow the VDH or CTDH guidelines and conduct their full quarantine obligations.**
 - Students should know that course directors are aware that quarantine expectations may impact the ability to start rotations at UVM. The course director should be contacted prior to the start of the rotation to discuss options for completing the rotation.

- **How can students be commuting to Plattsburgh and other parts of VT when travel guidelines encourage us not to travel?**
 - The Vermont Health Commissioner has given our students special dispensation to travel to these sites for your clinical training. This is so we can continue to train you – the next cohort of physicians who will play a crucial role in the wellbeing of your communities – and prepare you for residency.

- **How do you define close contact in the clinical environment, especially if you’re using PPE?**
 - Please see the UVM Medical Center Employee Risk Assessment Below:

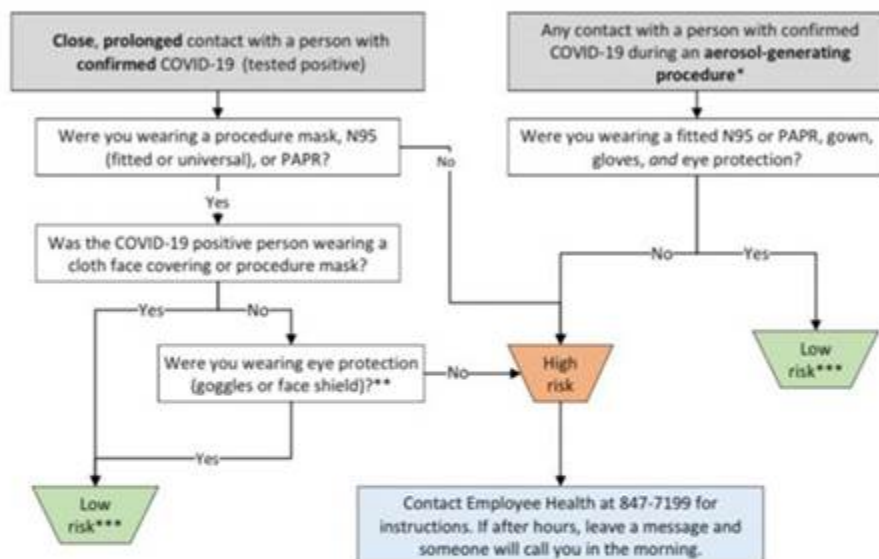
COVID-19 Employee Risk Assessment for Exposures

DEFINITIONS

Close contact:

- Being within 6 feet of a person with confirmed COVID-19, OR
- Having unprotected direct contact with infectious secretions of a person with confirmed COVID-19

Prolonged: 15 minutes or longer



Note: household exposures to COVID-19 are always considered high risk. Contact Employee Health if someone in your household has COVID or is being tested.

*Aerosol-generating procedures

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|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| ○ Intubation & Assist | ○ All NIV (CPAP / BiPAP) including overnight | ○ Bronchoalveolar Lavage (blind BAL) |
| ○ Extubation | ○ HFNC (High Flow Nasal Cannula) | ○ Bronchoscopy & Assist |
| ○ Bag/mask Ventilation | ○ Non-Closed Suction Techniques | ○ Pulmonary Function Testing |
| ○ Mechanical Ventilation | ○ Humidified Trach Collars | ○ Laryngeal / Vocal Cord Visualization |
| ○ CPR | ○ Open Surgical Airways | ○ Upper Endoscopy |
| ○ All Nebulized Medication Delivery | ○ Percutaneous Trach Procedure | ○ TEE Procedure |
| ○ All Airway Clearance Modalities | | |

**Eyeglasses do not count as eye protection

***if an employee is concerned about an exposure that does not fit into this algorithm, they should contact Employee Health.

Updated 7/15/20 Owner: Infection Prevention