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**To:** [Zehle, Christa H](#)  
**Subject:** Wednesday Winter (almost) Wonders  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 6:31:23 PM

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Dear Students,

As we approach the final days of the Fall 2021 semester, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your flexibility and engagement in your medical education during these challenging times. We are proud of you, the university, our clinical affiliates, and their local communities, for making it possible to continue providing a high-quality education safely. I wish you all a relaxing and restful winter break and hope you find time for the people and the activities that are most meaningful to you.

**COVID-19: [How is Vermont doing?](#)** As of today (12/15): 348 new cases (56,661 total), 4.5% positivity rate; 70 patients currently hospitalized with COVID-19, 19 of those hospitalized in ICU.

**COVID-19: [How is Connecticut doing?](#)** As of Thursday (12/14): 1,723 new cases (452,038 total); 7.15% positivity rate; 716 patients currently hospitalized with COVID-19.

**Class of 2022:** We are thinking of all of you and wishing you all the best with your interviews for residency. Be yourself and gather the information you need to make an informed decision regarding your graduate medical education. We are here to assist you in that process.

**Class of 2023:** Wow, you are already in rotation #6! We encourage you to take time to appreciate all that you have learned this year about the clinical care of patients.

**Class of 2024:** Congratulations on completing the basic science curriculum! Next semester you will have the opportunity to apply what you have learned in the Convergence course which is excellent preparation for your Step 1 exam and clerkship rotations. Preparation for Step 1 is important, but hopefully the pass/fail score will provide you time for some hard-earned self-care as well. Thank you for your participation in the AAMC Y2Q questionnaire! Let's reach 95% participation by the next AAMC update on 12/21/2021!

**Class of 2025:** Congratulations on completing your first semester of medical school! FoCS is a long and intense course, so be proud of what you have achieved and find time to relax over the winter break. Dr. Raszka, immunology and microbiology eagerly await you in 2022!

### **Our Shared Responsibility**

We remain grateful for high vaccination rates in Vermont and on campus, however continued transmission of variants, such as the Delta and Omnicron variants, requires us to remain vigilant and continue to follow basic prevention measures. These include:

- Before traveling for the semester break, we encourage you to schedule a COVID-19 test at least 48 hours before you expect to leave to allow sufficient time to get your test results.
- COVID 19 testing at the [Davis Center](#):
  - **Open Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am to 5:00 pm**
  - The Testing Center will be closed beginning on Tuesday, December 21 and will re-open on Tuesday, January 4, 2022.
  - Scheduling of appointments for January 2022 will be available Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>.
- All students are required to complete a **Day-0 COVID-19 test** at the start of Spring semester. College of Medicine students are required to complete a Day-0 test between Tuesday, January 4 and Friday, January 7, 2022.
- [Get your flu shot](#)

- Student Health Services is offering another walk-in flu vaccine clinic tomorrow, **Thursday, December 16, 1-3 pm.**
- Flu shots are also available at local pharmacies and Student Health Services when you go for other appointments.
- Get vaccinated as soon as you are eligible
- As of January 4, 2022, all UVM faculty and staff are required to submit proof of vaccination or qualify for a medical or religious exemption.
- While boosters are not required, all members of the UVM community are strongly encouraged to: Get your [booster shot](#), and encourage high risk family members and friends to do the same
  - Booster shots offered at local pharmacies, grocery stores and clinics
- Stay home if you feel sick
- [Get tested](#) if you have any symptoms, may be a close contact, or have taken part in activities that could put you at risk, such as large gatherings or travel
- Wear a mask in indoor public settings
  - All UVM faculty, staff, students, and visitors are required to wear a mask or face covering indoors while on campus. UVM has developed helpful [information and guidance on wearing masks.](#)
- Take care when getting together
  - Please avoid eating within 6 feet of others who do not live in your household
- Wash your hands regularly

Be well, be safe and enjoy your winter vacation!

With appreciation and gratitude,  
Christa Zehle and the Office of Medical Education Team