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**Cc:** [Page, Richard L \(LCOM Dean\)](#); [Gilwee, Vicki M](#)  
**Subject:** Important updates about caring for patients with suspected or active COVID-19  
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Dear medical students,

The Office of Medical Education would like to update you on some changes that the University of Vermont has made for the Spring semester regarding clinical placements for Larner College of Medicine (LCOM) medical students. Due to federal mandates that are applicable to our clinical partners and the ever-changing pandemic, the University of Vermont has changed its policy regarding students caring for COVID patients. As a result, the Waiver/Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk for Clinical Placements Involving the Treatment of Suspected or Active COVID-19 Patients completed by students for the fall semester will no longer be in effect.

Your clinical education includes learning to care for patients with contagious infectious diseases in a safe environment. Clinical sites determine the extent of participation by students in the clinical care of patients with COVID or other contagious infectious diseases. Students will be provided site-specific instructions to ensure they care for patients in accordance with the health and safety protocols of each clinical site and will need to follow the requirements of the assigned sites regarding vaccination status and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). The University of Vermont's COVID-19 vaccination policy for all students remains in place.

Due to the presence of contagious infectious diseases and the persistence of COVID-19 variants it remains important that your LCOM academic and clinical education prepares you to be knowledgeable about these diseases, to ensure you are competent and caring clinical providers when you enter the health care workforce.

Wishing you a healthy and enjoyable winter vacation and a successful spring semester.

Richard Page, M.D.  
Dean

Christa H. Zehle, M.D.  
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