

**From:** [Zehle, Christa H](#)  
**To:** [Zehle, Christa H](#)  
**Cc:** [Page, Richard L \(LCOM Dean\)](#); [Carney, Jan K.](#); [Lounsbury, Karen M.](#); [Everett, Elise](#); [Raszka, William V](#)  
**Subject:** Important curriculum information - please read  
**Date:** Sunday, January 2, 2022 6:54:47 PM

---

Dear LCOM Students,

While preparing to welcome you back in the next few days, the university is closely monitoring SARS-CoV-2 infection in Vermont and across the U.S. Considering LCOM students' return to instruction immediately on the heels of the winter holidays, we have collaborated closely with university officials to increase SARS-CoV-2 testing and to arrange for the Classes of 2024 and 2025 to receive a portion of their instruction synchronously online to accommodate new testing requirements detailed below.

We are counting on your compliance with the requirements and expectations, which will help enable us to continue your medical education and clinical experience in-person, once testing requirements are met. The university's decisions are based on current recommendations of Public Health and Infectious Disease experts, the Vermont Department of Health, and the CDC.

**The following is expected of all LCOM students:**

1. **Boosters.** If you have not already done so, we expect you to **obtain a COVID-19 booster as soon as possible**. UVM [requires a booster for all students by February 1, 2022](#), or within 14 calendar days of eligibility. The CDC provides information on [booster eligibility](#).
2. **Test Before Returning.** Before returning to campus, we strongly encourage you to do a rapid antigen test. These tests are widely available. If you test positive, contact Student Health Services (802-656-3350 or [health@uvm.edu](mailto:health@uvm.edu)) for directions on isolation.
3. **Day 0 Test.** [Day 0 testing the week of January 4](#) or upon your arrival. Check out the [UVM testing hours](#) and schedule your test using the CoVerified App.
4. **Day 5-7 Test.** [UVM is requiring a second test on Day 5, Day 6, or Day 7 the week of January 4](#) following your Day 0 test. If you arrive later than the week of January 4, you are still required to complete both of these tests counting your first day back as Day 0. Schedule your test using the CoVerified App.
5. **Masking.** Universal masking indoors, with a high-quality and well-fitting mask. UVM provides [comprehensive guidance on appropriate masks and how to wear a mask](#).
6. **Regular Testing.** Regular testing is strongly encouraged and available at the Testing Center in the Davis Center. For the month of January we recommend twice-weekly testing.
7. **Monitor Symptoms.** If you have any COVID symptoms, you must stay home for your personal safety and the safety of your peers and the patients you care for. Contact Student Health Services to arrange for symptomatic testing, which is handled separately from asymptomatic testing.
8. **Avoid Exposure.** Be exceptionally vigilant about your extra-curricular activities to minimize your risk of exposure. Avoid high risk environments, for example, large, public, indoor venues with no mask mandates.

**Class of 2025 students:** Attacks and Defenses begins online on January 4, 2022. In-person instruction begins January 10, 2022. Please obtain your Day 0 test on January 4, 2022.

**Class of 2024 students:** The Convergence course will be online beginning on January 4, 2022. Clerkship orientation begins March 14, 2022.

Students who are in Burlington and plan to be on the UVM Vermont campus (such as to use

Libraries, gym, Given, etc.), at any time between now and Clerkship orientation:

0. **Test Before Returning.** Before returning to campus, we encourage you to do a rapid antigen test. These are widely available. If you test positive, contact Student Health Services (656-3350 or [health@uvm.edu](mailto:health@uvm.edu)) for directions on isolation.
1. Comply with UVM requirements that include a Day 0 and day 5-7 test conducted at the UVM Testing Center.

Connecticut campus students please follow NuVance COVID policies and any additional expectations communicated by Drs. Jon Rosen and Ellen Kulaga prior to your arrival and during your time in Connecticut.

For UVM campus students we expect the following:

- **Arrival Date.** You should plan to arrive in Vermont no later than March 3.
- **Required Day 0 and Day 5-7 Tests.** Your Day 0 test can be no later than March 4, followed on the appropriate day with your Day 5-7 test.
- **NOTE:** Students who are in Burlington prior to March 3 and plan to use UVM facilities (e.g., Libraries, gym, Given, etc.) are expected to follow the testing requirements outlined above for the January 4 arrival.

**Classes of 2023 and 2022 clinical students:** Your clinical curriculum resumes on Monday, January 3, 2022. Students who are in Burlington and plan to be on the UVM Vermont campus (such as to use Libraries, gym, Given, etc.), or are enrolled in clinical rotations, must adhere to the following:

- **Required Day 0 and Day 5-7 Tests.** Your Day 0 test should be done as soon as possible prior to or immediately following arrival on campus, followed on the appropriate day with your Day 5-7 test. If you test positive, you must isolate immediately; you will be contacted by Student Health Services for specific instructions.

#### **Additional guidance for all students:**

##### **What if I have recently tested positive for COVID-19?**

If you have recently tested positive for COVID-19 you should continue to isolate and not return until your isolation period ends. Contact Student Health Services to discuss isolation procedures, specifically when you can end isolation. You will not be required to participate in testing for 90 days from onset of symptoms or positive PCR result.

**What if I have been a close contact to someone who tested positive for COVID-19?** If you are a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19, whether to quarantine depends on your vaccination status. Please consult the [Vermont Department of Health](#) for guidance.

- If you are boosted OR have completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months OR completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months, wear a mask around others for 10 days and test on day 5, if possible. **No quarantine is indicated.**
- If you completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted OR completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted OR are unvaccinated, **stay home for 5 days.** After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days. Test on day 5 if possible.

Thank you for your ongoing adherence to these protocols--We hope you have enjoyed the winter break and are ready for a successful and healthy return to campus.

With appreciation and gratitude,

Richard L. Page, MD  
Dean

Jan K. Carney, M.D., M.P.H.

Associate Dean for Public Health and Health Policy and Senior Advisor to the Dean

Christa Zehle, M.D.

Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education