

**From:** [Lounsbury, Karen M.](#)  
**To:** [LCOM Curriculum Services](#)  
**Subject:** Updates and Clarifications about in-person sessions  
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Dear Class of 2025,

This message will give you some updated information and clarification about our current in-person sessions. We have received input from your Student Council and SEG representatives that many students are uncomfortable with the in-person close contact in the large classroom sessions, and they question why sessions could not be delivered online.

We delayed the return to in-person sessions in A&D and PCR to allow time for COVID testing results after the winter break. We will continue to follow UVM guidelines regarding vaccinations, boosters, masking, testing, and isolation, which are measures that provide safety for our students, faculty, and staff. We have taken additional precautions by asking students to test twice per week at UVM to increase awareness of asymptomatic infections. We all have the responsibility of keeping our campus safe by following these safety guidelines.

Although conditions of the pandemic sometimes force us to use online instruction, in-person instruction is not only better for learning, but also better for social interactions that improve student well-being. Small group sessions in PCR and PHP will have the ability to have students and/or faculty participate online when necessary.

Students with any symptoms should not attend in-person sessions and should follow the [UVM guidance](#) for symptomatic testing and return to in-person learning. Students who test positive will be contacted by Student Health Services with instructions for when they can return. Note, that UVM guidelines are more stringent than the current CDC guidelines. Students who test positive, have symptoms, or have a personal reason for increased risk should submit an excused absence form in Oasis, notify their course director and small group preceptor, and communicate with Dr. DeAngelis or Dr. Rosen for support.

This seemingly endless and yet constantly changing pandemic affects all of us. Please know that we sympathize with your concerns and encourage your feedback. Although there may be other important factors that prevent LCOM or UVM from taking student-driven actions, your input helps to inform these decisions. Join me in reflecting on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

Sincerely,

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