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**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2020 7:12 PM

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**Subject:** COVID-19 reading elective opportunity

Dear Class of 2021 Students,

A new opportunity to work with the Vermont Department Health in their contact tracing of COVID-19 cases has just been announced and has been incorporated into a one month reading elective for June and July – see short summary below and full syllabus attached.

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*Title of Course: Pandemic Response: Understanding Covid-19*

*Dates:6/1-6/26*

*Faculty Advisors: Tim Lahey, Lou Polish*

*Number of Students: 2*

*This course is a 4-week online Reading Month elective designed to examine the current COVID-19 pandemic in greater detail. It is based largely on the course recently offered to the Class of 2022 and will involve completing online readings and modules to gain an understanding of the current pandemic crisis and the global response. This course will also entail working with the Vermont Department of Health to aid with contact tracing and with identifying and monitoring of at risk individuals through daily patient phone calls.*

***The VDH component of this elective is anticipated to require a commitment of approximately 2hours/day, for a maximum of 5 days/week, and may include one or both weekend days in any given week.***

*Students will also be expected to perform a literature search and create a deliverable, i.e., a presentation, poster, public service announcement, or Camtasia (or other software) video. Students will present their product at a time and venue still TBD.*

*For more information, please see course syllabus (attached).*

**Enrollment will be in a first-come, first-served basis through [Emma Faustner](#).**

You all are missed! **\*See\*** you soon  
Shaden

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**Nathalie Feldman, M.D. (she/her)**

Chair, LCOMcares Service Corps – COVID-19 Task Force

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## **Title of course: Pandemic Response: Understanding COVID-19**

**Dates:6/1-6/26**

### **Goal of course:**

“Pandemic Response: Understanding COVID-19” is a 4-week online Reading Month elective designed to examine the current COVID-19 pandemic in greater detail. It is based largely on the course recently offered to the Class of 2022 and will involve completing assigned online readings and modules to gain an understanding of the current pandemic crisis and the global response.

This course will also entail working with the Vermont Department of Health to aid with contact tracing and with identification and monitoring of at-risk individuals through daily patient phone calls.

**The VDH component of this elective is anticipated to require a commitment of approximately 2hours/day, for a maximum of 5 days/week, and may include one or both weekend days in any given week.**

### **Objectives:**

1. In collaboration with the Vermont Department of Health, participate in COVID-19 contact tracing & identify at risk individuals in an effort to help prevent spread of the disease.
2. Explore the epidemiology of prior infectious disease outbreaks and compare to the current COVID-19 pandemic (CDC module, Characteristics of and Important Lessons, Defining the Epidemiology of COVID-19)
3. Appreciate the process of investigating and addressing a public health problem (CDC module)
4. Compare and contrast global responses to pandemics (Response to COVID-19 in Taiwan)
5. Explore current challenges and limitations of pandemic preparedness (Innovation for Pandemics article)
6. Appreciate effective means of sharing information with and advising patients and families about COVID-19 (<https://podcasts.jwatch.org/index.php/podcast-256-anthony-fauci-talking-with-patients-about-covid-19/2020/03/10/>)
7. Discuss options for potential treatment and/or community response for COVID-19

### **Nuts and Bolts/Expectations:**

In collaboration with the Vermont Department of Health students will:

- Contact patients with COVID-19 daily to ascertain symptomatology and other information.
- Answer queries from patients with COVID-19 about their monitoring; these queries will come in through a VDH telephone answering system, and the patient’s name, telephone number, and question will be sent via email to the team. Discuss any uncertainties about questions with VDH physician
- Review symptomatology daily with DVDH physician to ascertain if any COVID-19 patients have symptoms that prompt follow-up that day

As an adjunct to their work with the VDH, students will review the following resources on their own time throughout the month:

- CDC module: <https://www.cdc.gov/epicasestudies/index.html>

- Characteristics of and Important Lessons: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2762130>
- History in a Crisis - Lessons for Covid-19, Jones DS NEJM March 12, 2020, <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2004361>
- Defining the Epidemiology of COVID-19, <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2002125>
- Fauci podcast: <https://podcasts.jwatch.org/index.php/podcast-256-anthony-fauci-talking-with-patients-about-covid-19/2020/03/10/>
- Innovation for Pandemics (PDF)
- Response to Covid-19 in Taiwan (PDF)

Student will perform a literature search and prepare a deliverable (likely poster or presentation) summarizing their experience and exploring a specific area of interest related to the pandemic, to be presented at a time and venue yet TBD.

### **Additional Resources:**

#### Global Tracking

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

- CDC: Coronavirus 2019 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- WHO <https://www.who.int/> Daily situation updates
- Vermont Department of Health <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/infectious-disease/2019-novel-coronavirus>
- NEJM Coronavirus (COVID-19) <https://www.nejm.org/coronavirus>

#### Great articles:

- Fauci AS et al NEJM <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMe2002387>
- Guan W et al NEJM <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2002032>
- Wu Z and McGoogan JM JAMA <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2762130>
- Children <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2003717>

#### Compare and Contrast History of Pandemics to Current COVID-19 pandemic:

- Morens DM et al <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2002106>

#### Discuss potential Treatment:

- Remdesivir: <https://www.jwatch.org/na50889/2020/03/03/remdesivir-promising-antiviral-against-coronaviruses>

#### Explore Clinical Conversations

- Telemedicine <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2003539>