

From: Zehle, Christa H <Christa.Zehle@med.uvm.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 7:25 PM
To: Zehle, Christa H <Christa.Zehle@med.uvm.edu>
Subject: Important information about Clerkship given COVID-19
Importance: High

Dear Class of 2022 students,

I recognize that with increasing news and number of cases of COVID-19 there is a lot of uncertainty about your medical education and the impact that the pandemic will have on you. As a College of the University, we are following institutional expectations which are included in the attached message from President Garimella. Additional information is located in the attached message from Dean Page and on the [Office of Emergency Management](#) webpage. Below I have attempted to address some of the questions that have recently been raised:

What about clerkship?

*After careful consideration by OMSE leadership and clinical clerkship staff we have made the decision to delay your entry into clerkship until **April 13, 2020**. Most, if not all students will be enrolled in a MD-1008 Reading month to ensure that you remain enrolled students and eligible for cost of living expenses and have the opportunity to engage in a meaningful experience for credit during this time. More information about the goals and expectations of this course will be forthcoming.*

What are the expectations on April 13, 2020?

The Clerkship orientation will be online from 4/13/2020 to 4/17/2020. As of now, all students except for those in Family Medicine will be expected to be at their clinical sites by 4/20/2020. Family Medicine Top Med will be online and students in Family Medicine will be expected to be at their clinical sites by 4/27/2020.

Will the delayed entry into clerkship impact my graduation date?

No we will ensure that you meet the goals and objectives of the clinical clerkship curriculum with a plan to complete your clerkship curriculum as scheduled on 3/19/2021.

Do I need to be in Vermont or Connecticut during this time?

No, however please note that if you decide to travel, you need to follow institutional, CDC and federal guidelines.

What if I remain in Vermont and do not have good internet access?

The University remains open and students are able to access University facilities during this time. This includes the library and medical education spaces, however you will need to follow the guidelines for group meetings/gatherings.

If I need to self-quarantine, how will that impact my ability to meet the course and medical education requirements?

We will work with students on a case by case basis to ensure they are able to meet course and medical education requirements. We recognize that certain events may be out of your control and our responsibility is to ensure that you are able to successfully complete your medical education.

When clinical clerkships start what are my responsibilities?

We are following the [AAMC guidelines](#) for [education and safety considerations](#) for medical students. Students in their clinical years (on their core clinical clerkships and clinical electives) are members of the health care team and can provide meaningful care. These students, after receiving appropriate training, are regularly involved in the care of patients with communicable diseases like influenza, measles, TB, and HIV. In these situations, student level of involvement is determined by school policies that consider well-established transmissibility data and morbidity/mortality data. For COVID-19, we do not have these critical data about transmissibility, morbidity, and mortality, even as we need to make important decisions. Therefore, in the interest of student safety, we plan to limit student direct care of known or suspected cases of COVID-19 infection until better epidemiologic data are available. We also ask that students do not participate in the care of patients requiring use of masks, N95 respirators or any other items that may be in short supply at our clinical affiliates. Other than limiting direct care of COVID-19 patients and use of scarce resources, the plan is for clinical students to continue their roles as part of the care team.

What do I do if I am sick?

If you are sick you should contact Student Health Services (phone consultation and office visits are free to all enrolled UVM students regardless of insurance) or your primary care provider to discuss your symptoms.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Thank you for your understanding as we navigate this pandemic and take important steps to keep you, our students healthy and safe as well as our faculty, staff and community.

With appreciation,
Christa Zehle, MD

Christa H. Zehle, MD

The Robert Larner, MD College of Medicine at the University of Vermont | Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education
The Robert Larner, MD College of Medicine at the University of Vermont | Associate Dean for Students
The University of Vermont Children's Hospital | Associate Professor of Pediatrics
The University of Vermont Children's Hospital | Pediatric Hospitalist

MEDICAL STUDENT EDUCATION OFFICE

[Drop In Sessions](#)

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Pronouns: she/her [[Why include pronouns?](#)]

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From: LCOM Office of the Dean <COMOfficeOfTheDean@med.uvm.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 6:21 PM

To: Gilwee, Vicki M <vicki.gilwee@med.uvm.edu>

Subject: IMPORTANT COVID-19 UPDATE FROM DEAN PAGE

Dear Larner College of Medicine Community,

As concern mounts regarding COVID-19, I am writing to provide an update specific to our College. We have been tracking this situation for many weeks now, with substantial planning at the University and College level.

Per President Garimella's letter today, we now have specific UVM guidance that is informing the policies listed below. All graduate and undergraduate courses follow the policies laid out in the President's communication: they will be cancelled March 16 and 17 and taught remotely after that. Resources in support of undergraduate and graduate faculty are provided in today's [message](#) from the Provost.

Please note that there are no class cancellations for medical students on March 16 and 17, as we are already moving to remote learning starting Monday, March 16. These restrictions are to be continued until further notice.

Medical Education (note that we are monitoring AAMC guidelines for education and safety considerations for medical students):

Non-clinical courses: We are following institutional expectations and moving to online curriculum delivery. Instead of cancelling classes on Monday and Tuesday, we plan to begin remote education on Monday, March 16th. Please look for communication from your course director for further details.

Introduction to clinical rotations: Unlike in clinical rotations, the primary focus in these courses is on learning, not patient care. Doctoring in Vermont will be suspended until further notice to allow health care providers to respond to patient care needs until the epidemiology of COVID-19 is better known and the burden on frontline care providers from COVID-19 patients has diminished.

Clinical rotations and interactions: Students in their clinical years (on their core clinical clerkships and clinical electives) are members of the health care team and can provide meaningful care. These students, after receiving appropriate training, are regularly involved in the care of patients with communicable diseases like influenza, measles, TB and HIV. In these situations, student level of involvement is determined by school policies that consider well-established transmissibility data and morbidity/mortality data. For COVID-19, we do not have these critical data about transmissibility, morbidity and mortality, even as we need to make important decisions. Therefore, in the interest of student safety, we plan to limit student direct care of known or suspected cases of COVID-19 infection until better epidemiologic data are available. Other than limiting direct care of COVID-19 patients, the plan is for clinical students to continue their roles as part of the care team.

Graduate Education: As noted above, graduate students should plan to abide by the UVM plan to have classes cancelled on March 16 and 17 and then attend class remotely beginning March 18. They will be expected to meet all deadlines for assignments and exams as originally scheduled unless they hear otherwise from their course directors. Further guidance regarding research commitments will be provided by Dean of the Graduate College, Dr. Cynthia Forehand. If any students become ill or are delayed returning to campus after spring break, they should notify their instructors immediately so the proper academic support can be facilitated.

For Faculty, Staff and Students:

Clinical care: Please refer to guidance provided by the UVM Health Network Medical Group and the leadership of the specific clinical site. Note that today it was announced that a new UVM Health Network COVID-19 Coordination Center will be responsible for future communications.

Meetings: Move to on-line as much as possible via ZOOM. We are in active discussions with ZOOM for additional licenses through the end of the fiscal year. In-person meetings generally limited to eight people or less.

Large gatherings: Events and gatherings will be limited to 25 attendees or fewer. This means we must cancel the Match Day Eve Reception and modify our traditional Match Day Event. Within 24 hours we will provide a plan for the Match. We are postponing the ISA Ice Cream Celebration, with hope to reschedule for Graduation Week.

Travel: Please visit [this link](#) for the most recent information regarding travel and travel authorizations. For members of the UVM Health Network Medical Group, please refer to the communication sent by the UVM Health Network COVID-19 Coordination Center and the UVM Health Network Medical Group.

Essential services: The University and College will remain open and employees are expected to report to work. Further guidance from UVM Human Resources will be forthcoming.

Please remember that there are [simple things](#) we can all do to protect ourselves and reduce the chance of spreading the novel coronavirus:

- Wash your hands often.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze.

- Wear a facemask if you are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

What do I do if I am sick? Students should contact Student Health Services (phone consultation and office visit free to all enrolled UVM students regardless of insurance). All others should contact your primary care provider to discuss your symptoms.

Also, please stay informed by regularly checking the [UVM](#) COVID-19 site, the [CDC](#) and the Vermont Department of Health. The [Department of Health](#) has recommendations for general questions (dial 2-1-1), for returning travelers from affected countries, and for individuals who are ill.

As our state's only college of medicine, with faculty serving our state's only tertiary/quaternary medical center, we have a unique obligation to our students, faculty, staff and community. I am proud of the efforts that have already been undertaken and am confident that we can address this challenge based on science, public health expertise, professionalism and compassion.

As always, thank you for everything you do.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Page, M.D.
Dean, The Robert Larner M.D. College of Medicine
The University of Vermont

From: UVM Faculty & Staff On Behalf Of Suresh V. Garimella
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 1:20:40 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: UVMFACULTYSTAFF@LIST.UVM.EDU
Subject: COVID-19 Update



March 11, 2020

Dear UVM community members:

As we face the local, national, and international challenges posed by the coronavirus outbreak ("COVID-19"), our primary focus remains on the well-being of our students, faculty and staff. In addition to monitoring the situation closely, we have continued to consult with health authorities in order to thoughtfully and appropriately refine our response plans.

Exercising an abundance of caution, the university will shift to remote methods of learning starting Wednesday,

March 18, for regularly scheduled classes. In-person classes on Monday and Tuesday, March 16 and 17, will be canceled to provide additional opportunity for faculty and staff to complete preparations for moving to remote instruction.

This decisive action reflects our commitment to help slow the spread of the virus, while also promoting the academic progress of our students and protecting the health and safety of our community. Please note that this change does not apply to medical students in the Larner College of Medicine, which is developing a separate action plan centered on their unique needs.

Specific communications will soon be issued by Provost Patty Prelock to the faculty, Dean Cindy Forehand to graduate students and post-doctoral scholars, and Rafael Rodriguez, executive director of Residential Life, to our residential undergraduate students, whom we are encouraging to not return to the residence halls after Spring Break unless they need to live on campus. These messages will include links to more detailed information and resources.

Also, starting Wednesday, March 18, the university will begin implementing other measures to facilitate the social distancing recommended to slow the spread of COVID-19. The university will remain open, but events and gatherings will be limited to 25 attendees or fewer. Wherever possible, remote delivery will be implemented to support any larger meetings.

These measures will remain in effect until further notice. Given the evolving nature of the situation, and our continual reassessment, we are not in a position to address future events, such as Commencement, at this time.

In summary, I am announcing the following measures:

- In-person classes on Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17 will be cancelled.
- Classes will resume on Wednesday, March 18, but will shift to remote methods of instruction.
- The university will remain open and employees will be expected to report to work.
- Graduate students and post-doctoral scholars will be expected to continue their work, as described in the communication they will receive from Dean Forehand.
- Social distancing measures, such as limiting indoor events to 25 attendees or fewer, will go into effect Wednesday, March 18.

While these changes are significant, I want to emphasize the importance of keeping our university open, and continuing our support of critically important services and activities, such as our student support, administrative functions, and research endeavors.

I recognize these measures are unprecedented and may be unsettling. With that in mind, we will continue to provide regular updates and information. The COVID-19 website (go.uvm.edu/covid19) is a resource for the latest policy decisions and other useful information and, starting today, questions may be sent to COVID19@uvm.edu or to our COVID-19 information helpline that will be staffed from 8:30-4:30 daily (and this weekend) until further notice. The helpline number is 802-656-HELP.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. I am grateful for the dedication, teamwork, and care that defines our community.

Suresh V. Garimella
President