Dear Colleagues,

We remain committed to sharing updates with you as they become available. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have additional questions.

**COVID-19 Guidance**

**COVID-19 Testing**

Thanks so much to all students enrolled in required surveillance testing for scheduling your testing as outlined in class messages earlier last month. We would like to remind students that the Ashe Center is now able to test any student, regardless of whether or not you have UC SHIP insurance, and the testing is covered at 100% (i.e., no charge for students).

**Face Shield Distribution**

All staff, students and faculty should obtain face shields before participating in any patient care or on-campus activities. Please note, you will receive two face shields: UShield for clinical use and iShieldMax for classes/admin work/meetings/etc. Please bring your ID badge to Materials Management to pick up your shields on Monday-Friday during normal business hours (8 AM-4:00PM) at the following locations:

- Ronald Reagan: B-301
- Santa Monica Hospital: B-415

**Campus Access**

The Center for Health Sciences, Geffen Hall and the Learning Resource Center (LRC) continue to remain closed and are not open for gatherings, studying, exams, etc. For additional information, please visit: [https://www.studentaffairs.ucla.edu/guidebook/campus-access](https://www.studentaffairs.ucla.edu/guidebook/campus-access).

**Shadowing Experiences**

Given the need to respect social distancing and density requirements in our clinical settings, shadowing (referring to instances in which as student is working alongside a clinician, but not participating in patient care and not part of a required course) is not currently permitted. We will continue to monitor local trends and provide updates should this status change.

**Town Hall recordings are available here.**

**Volunteer Opportunities**

**Blood & Platelet Center**

A message from the UCLA Blood & Platelet Center: We are still facing a blood shortage during the COVID-19 crisis. While our UCLA patient need for blood products continues to increase, we would encourage you to please consider scheduling a lifesaving donation. Additional details can be
found [here](#). If you or someone you know has recovered from COVID-19 infection and are interested in donating convalescent plasma for patient treatment, consider registering as a potential plasma donor at [https://www.uclahealth.org/gotblood/covid-19-plasma-donation](https://www.uclahealth.org/gotblood/covid-19-plasma-donation). For additional volunteer opportunities, please see the [LA COVID-19 Volunteers](#) website for more information.

### COVID-19 Vaccine Effort

UCLA Health is pleased to be launching a major COVID-19 vaccine effort, starting with our front-line health care workers in the highest risk tier. This is a massive public health effort and we’re looking for volunteers to assist! The vaccine center is in need of volunteers to assist with registering staff, assisting the team during the vaccination events, and overseeing people in the post-vaccine recovery area. They are also interested in having site administrators to oversee the process for the 2 shifts each day. The vaccines will be delivered in the basement of Ronald Reagan Medical Center in Westwood and at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica.

- Volunteers are needed from 6am-9:30pm – Monday thru Saturday and on Sundays from 6am-9:30am and also from 6pm-9:30pm. Hours are flexible.
- Volunteer administrator hours would be from 6:00am- to 2:30 pm and 2:00pm- 9:30pm. To volunteer, please contact Sheri Monsein at: SMonsein@mednet.ucla.edu or Alex Wittenberg at: AWittenberg@mednet.ucla.edu.

### Winter Closure

Please note that all DGSOM offices will be closed in observance of the winter holiday from **Friday, December 18, 2020 at 4pm through 7am, January 4, 2021**. Staff will be on break during this time and may have limited access to email or communication at this time.

### Staffing Updates

Mary Ann Triest will be out of the office beginning December 11, with an anticipated return to the office in June 2021. While Mary Ann is out:

- MSC-related questions should be directed to Brandon Susselman (bsusselman@mednet.ucla.edu).
- Career Development & Well-Being questions should be directed to the Director of Career Development & Well-Being, Aurora Reyes (amreyes@mednet.ucla.edu).
- Student organization questions should be directed to Narchelle Velasquez & Aurora Reyes (ndvelasquez@mednet.ucla.edu / amreyes@mednet.ucla.edu).

David Williams will be joining the Curricular Affairs Team in January as Curriculum Coordinator for Block 6, Block 8 and Clinical Skills 2.

- David has extensive knowledge in curriculum delivery and will be bringing his considerable experience from both the UCI School of Medicine and the Weill-Cornell Medical College.
- Marifrances Williams and Franklin De Paz continue to do an outstanding job as the interim coordinators.
  - For questions related to Block 6 & 8 please continue to reach out to Marifrances (MarifrancesWilliams@mednet.ucla.edu).
  - For questions related to Clinical Skills 2 please continue to reach out to Franklin (FDePaz@mednet.ucla.edu).
Desiree White is no longer working with us at DGSOM.

- Clerkship & Clinical Curriculum questions can be directed to Jenny Yoo (jsyoo@mednet.ucla.edu) or Ashley Siemer (asiemer@mednet.ucla.edu).
- Scheduling questions can be directed to Gezelle Miller for MS3 (gmiller@mednet.ucla.edu) or Katy Wolf for MS4 (kwolf@mednet.ucla.edu).
- We have started the hiring process to fill the Clinical Curriculum Supervisor (SAO IV) position. This position will manage a team devoted to the clinical curriculum delivery; ensure the effective, compliant, and efficient daily management of all clerkship and elective operations, contribute to the development of policies, procedures, manuals, course catalogs and other written communications required for accreditation and quality enhancement; work as a liaison between education leaders to facilitate integration of all aspects of the curriculum; and manage and staff a sub-committee of the Medical Education Committee. If you are interested or know someone who is interested, please have them reach out to Ashley Siemer (asiemer@mednet.ucla.edu).

Class Specific Updates

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<th>Class Year</th>
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| MS1        | In accordance with CDC guidelines and the Los Angeles Targeted Safer-at-Home Order, please plan to self-quarantine for 7 days prior to in-person activities, and get a COVID-19 test at days 5-7.  
1. The first scheduled in-person activity is Tuesday, January 12.  
2. Therefore, please plan to get a COVID test by Friday, January 8th (before the weekend) to ensure that you have a negative result before the first in-person activity. |

For additional details please refer to the email message that was sent today from Deans Napolitano and Miller with the subject line: *Winter Break.*
In accordance with CDC guidelines and the Los Angeles Targeted Safer-at-Home Order (to self-quarantine for 7 days and COVID-19 test at days 5-7):

1. Please plan to begin your self-quarantine 7-days before your first in-person activity. This date will depend upon when you schedule your next preceptorship session.
2. Please plan to get a COVID-19 test on days 5-7 of this quarantine period.
3. In-person activities may resume after 7-days of self-quarantine with a negative COVID-19 test.

For additional details please refer to the email message that was sent today from Deans Napolitano and Miller with the subject line: Winter Break.

Starting in January, all MS2s are now a Part of Group 1 for COVID-Testing
As we continue to work together to ensure a safe environment for teaching and learning at UCLA, we continue to engage in a robust COVID-19 testing, contact tracing and isolation program. As second-year medical students you are a member of the Mandatory testing Group 1, which as you know involves weekly screening tests upon your return to campus. For additional details please refer to the email from Deans Miller and Napolitano on 10/29/20 with the subject line: An update on the main campus COVID screening protocol for the Class of 2023. Please lookout for emails from SummerBio to schedule your mandatory surveillance testing beginning in January.

The Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) endorsed Medical Education Committee (MEC) decisions as they relate to your class:
All third-year core clerkships scheduled for the next academic year will be graded Credit/No-Credit instead of using the 4-tier grading system.

Y2Q Request:
We kindly request that you please complete the AAMC Year Two Questionnaire (Y2Q), which is available until January 3, 2021. To encourage full participation and to thank you for your contribution, we will provide a $10 Amazon e-gift card to each student who completes the Y2Q, and, if 90% of your class completes the Y2Q, we will donate a total of $1500 across the following three DGSOM initiatives: Dream Campaign (DACA Scholarship), Mobile Clinic Project, and Food Closet. We value your honest feedback about your educational experience at DGSOM! For additional information, please see the emails from “Y2Q Survey” and “DGSOM Program Evaluation.”
**MS3**  
To resume your clinical activities during the week of January 4th, we have worked out the following plan to be compliant with the most recent public health advisories.

In accordance with CDC guidelines and the Los Angeles Targeted Safer-at-Home Order (to self-quarantine for 7 days and COVID-19 test at days 5-7):

1. Please begin your self-quarantine on December 30th
3. You will have remote clerkship activities on Monday January 4th and Tuesday, January 5th.
4. In-person clinical activities will resume on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 after confirmation of a negative test result.

For additional details, please refer to the email from Deans Napolitano and Miller with the subject line: *Winter Break*.

**MS4**  
For students planning to resume clinical activities on January 4th, we have worked out the following plan to be compliant with the most recent public health advisories.

In accordance with CDC guidelines and the Los Angeles Targeted Safer-at-Home Order (to self-quarantine for 7 days and COVID-19 test at days 5-7):

1. Please begin your self-quarantine on December 30th
2. Please get a COVID test at the Wooden Center on Monday, January 4, 2021.
3. You may then resume your clinical duties on January 6, 2021 after confirmation of a negative test result.

For additional details, please refer to the email from Deans Napolitano and Miller with the subject line: *Winter Break*.

**Interview Space in Geffen Hall**
Just a reminder that interview space is available in Geffen Hall for students who meet criteria. Please reach out to your Assistant Dean for more scoop!

**Reminder to Those Participating in the Match**
Students participating in the Match must complete all MS-3 requirements, in addition to passing Step 2 CK, prior to the NRMP verification deadline of March 3, 2021.

**LOA Students**
For students returning from leaves of absence or thinking about taking a leave of absence please continue to reach out to your specialty mentor, Assistant Dean, Program Director, Dr. Calmes or Dr. Miller regarding your individual schedules and unique circumstances.
All our best,

Ashley Siemer
Director of Curricular Affairs

Brandon Susselman
Director of Student Affairs

Jason Napolitano, MD
Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs

Lee Miller, MD
Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Edward Ha, MD
Assistant Dean for Clinical Education