This message applies to all DGSOM faculty, staff, trainees, and students.

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
Commitment to our Community
Working together to ensure the health and safety of our community is our shared responsibility. Several of you have reached out to ask for advice about gatherings and traveling during the holiday season. We would like to reiterate the recommendations from the State of California, the County of Los Angeles, and the Centers for Disease Control:

State of California:
On November 13, 2020, the Governor’s office issued a statewide travel advisory encouraging all of us to avoid non-essential travel to other states or countries:

Persons arriving in California from other states or countries, including returning California residents, should practice self-quarantine for 14 days after arrival.

Los Angeles County:
On November 16, 2020 the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health published the following press release:

As COVID-19 cases surge and hospitalizations continue to rise here and across California, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health urges everyone to take immediate action to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to stay home as much as possible for the next two to three weeks except for accessing essential services.

Centers for Disease Control (CDC):
On November 19, 2020, the CDC strongly urged Americans not to travel for Thanksgiving and not to spend the holiday with people from outside their household. For additional information on how to stay safe this holiday, please see the CDC’s website here.

We know that these are challenging times, and we would like to recognize and thank each of you for your commitment to slowing the spread of the virus and to following public health guidelines. We thank you on behalf of your patients, your health care team and your community.

COVID-19 Testing
Thanks so much to all students enrolled in required surveillance testing for scheduling your testing as outlined in class messages earlier this month. We would like to remind students that the Ashe Center is now able to test any symptomatic student, regardless of whether or not you have Ashe 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**

To help promote a safer environment, campus access remains limited to essential staff, residents, students attending in-person classes, and approved essential visitors. 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 and preserve mandatory in-person activities (for example EACE, Preceptorship, third-year clerkships, electives, etc.) in our clinical settings, shadowing (referring to instances in which a 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**

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](https://www.uclahealth.org/gotblood/covid-19-plasma-donation). For additional volunteer opportunities, please see the [LA COVID-19 Volunteers](https://www.lacovid19volunteers.com) website for more information.
## Class Specific Updates

| MS1 | **Suspension of In-Person Activities Now Through December**  
In light of local COVID-19 trends, recommendations from the State of California, the Los Angeles Department of Public Health and the UCLA main campus, a decision was made to hold no in-person activities between November 30th and Winter Break.  
We continue to work with course leadership to determine which activities will be converted to remote and which will be rescheduled after the Winter Break. Course leadership will be in close communication with you about specifics updates to course schedules.  
It will also be important to plan for the beginning of Block 3 following Winter Break. It is likely that the first required in-person activities will begin on January 12, 2021. Please take this into account when considering that a 14-day self-quarantine may be required prior to participating in in-person activities for those traveling from out of the state. |
Suspension of In-Person Activities Now Through December

In light of local COVID-19 trends, recommendations from the State of California, the Los Angeles Department of Public Health and the UCLA main campus, the decision was made to hold no in-person activities for between November 30th and Winter Break.

The preceptorship visit, which was the only required in-person activity in December, has been cancelled.

As you prepare for Block 8 Part 2 please take into account that a 14-day self-quarantine may be required prior to participating in in-person activities for those traveling from out of the state. There is a required Preceptorship visit the first week in January. If needed, due to the 14-day self-quarantine, we ask that you communicate with your Preceptor to reschedule this visit.

Planning for Your MS3 Year | Third Year & Scheduling

We look forward to getting together remotely with your entire class on December 7th at 3:00 PM.

**Agenda:**
3:00pm - 4:00pm: Welcome & Presentation by Deans Ha, Miller and Napolitano
4:00pm - 4:30pm: Scheduling with Gezelle Miller
4:30pm - 5:00pm: Q&A

**Connection Details:**
Join Zoom Meeting
https://uclahs.zoom.us/j/96573682992?pwd=aTE2RVBETHVOdThEM3ZjRHFLVW5Ydz09
Password: 466675

**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.”
### University Holiday Reminder

All medical students on core clerkships are excused from clinical duties on Thursday and Friday of Thanksgiving week. Students are required to be present on all other holidays and holiday observations if the clinical service is operational.

### *Travel During the Winter Break*

Several of you have reached out to ask for advice about gatherings and traveling during the holiday season. We would like to reiterate the recommendations above from the State of California, the County of Los Angeles and the CDC.

As of today, we plan for clinical duties to resume Monday, January 4, 2021. Please take this into account when considering that a 14-day self-quarantine may be required prior to participating in patient care activities for those who choose to travel out of state. *Subject to change based on local trends and public health guidelines*

### Mid-Clerkship Feedback Information Available in My Courses

The process for mid-clerkship feedback was updated at the track change. We wanted to make sure you had access to the relevant information regarding this new process. You can access this information by logging into My Courses, selecting **There are NEW and UPDATED notices**, My 3rd Year - Class of 2022, Mid-Clerkship Feedback Information.

### Planning for Your MS4 Year | The Colleges

We look forward to getting together remotely with your entire class on December 7th at 5:30 PM.

**Agenda:**
5:30pm - 6:30pm: Welcome & Presentation by Deans Ha, Miller and Napolitano
6:30pm - 7:10pm: Colleges Presentations (10 min each; UUC will go into breakout room)
7:10pm - 7:25pm: 1st Breakout Session for students
7:25pm - 7:40pm: 2nd Breakout Session for students

**Connection Details:**
https://uclahs.box.com/s/hk9qbyanthjxxqrxnx82ta7ryztp9zyv
Meeting ID: 938 6343 8584
Passcode: 885200
**Travel During the Winter Break**

Several of you have reached out to ask for advice about gatherings and traveling during the holiday season. We would like to reiterate the recommendations above from the State of California, the County of Los Angeles and the CDC.

As of today, we plan for clinical duties to resume Monday, January 4, 2021. Please take this into account when considering that a 14-day self-quarantine may be required prior to participating in patient care activities for those who choose to travel out of state. *Subject to change based on local trends and public health guidelines*

**Leave of Absence Task Force**

A Leave of Absence Task Force has been created which is comprised of leadership, students and staff to address issues to improve the experience for students exploring the possibility of taking a leave of absence, for students on a leave of absence, and for those transitioning back to the curriculum from a leave of absence.

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.

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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