

**Subject:** SOM Moves to Virtual Learning Environment for All Classroom-based Activities, effective Monday, March 16

**Date:** Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 6:15:05 PM Pacific Daylight Time

**From:** Catherine R. Lucey

**To:** Wolfson, Rebecca



## COVID-19 Updates for Medical Education

Dear Students,

Because of the importance of social distancing as a strategy for containing the COVID-19 epidemic and the challenge of social distancing in the educational environment, the School of Medicine is making important changes to our educational strategies.

The goal of these changes is to continue your education while mitigating risk, not only for students but for the individuals with whom you interact. The changes we are making are outlined below. We are holding **MANDATORY Virtual Town Hall Informational Meetings** for all students in all curricular phases **tomorrow, Thursday, March 12, 2020**.

- 12pm-1pm: F1 students
- 2pm-3pm: Class of 2021/LOA students (upper class non-clinical)
- 5:30pm-6:30pm: F2/Class of 2020 students (upper class clinical)

Join by Zoom: <https://ucsf.zoom.us/j/657710644>

Meeting ID: 657 710 644

Telephone: US: +1 669 900 6833/ or +1 646 558 8656

Please read this email in its entirety.

**Zoom Link: Mandatory Virtual Town Hall Informational Meeting**

### Curriculum Update:

1. **All UCSF School of Medicine classes and educational activities will continue under new strategies and students are expected to fully engage with the curriculum.**
2. **All classroom and lab-based activities for all phases are essential for educational continuity but do not need to be delivered in person. As such, we will shift to a standard of Virtual ('Remote') learning strategies effective March 16, 2020.** This includes all F1 blocks and elements, including ARCH week, CIC and CMC. Coursework strategies will be adapted to fit this format. As with our current curriculum, some of the activities will require that you participate at the same time as your classmates while participation in other activities will be able to be completed asynchronously. We will be providing information on how this will happen via the weekly curriculum email updates and directly through your iROCKET/Ilios calendar updates.

3. **At this time, all high stakes examinations are essential and will be delivered on campus because of the need for exam security.** This includes the REGN exam scheduled for March 13, 2020. We are taking steps to decrease the number of people in the exam rooms at the same time so that social distancing is appropriate. Examinations involving standardized patients will **not** be held.
4. **F2 and Career Launch clinical activities are essential for educational continuity and competency development and will continue as we have previously described.** Students will not be assigned to provide direct care for patients with or suspected of having COVID-19, but will support their team in the care of those patients outside of the patient's room and will be assigned to provide direct care for other patients.
5. **Involvement by first year students in the clinical environment is considered nonessential during the COVID-19 epidemic and thus will be stopped. First year students may not shadow in the clinical environment** during this time of added workload for our faculty and employed professionals and staff. We will make sure that you have an opportunity for shadowing at a later date.

#### **Events Update:**

1. **Match Day: Because we cannot ensure social distancing, Match Day will be held virtually;** we hope to have a formal celebration of your successes sometime in early May. We realize how disappointing this will be for all of you and your loved ones, as it is for us. Please watch for communications from DQ for further information. Of note, the **SOAP process** will proceed in person in S-221.
2. **Admitted Students Weekend: Similarly, Admitted Students Weekend will not be held in person this year.** We are delighted that our students have agreed to work with Dean Wofsy and Hallen Chung to explore alternate ways to welcome our admitted students virtually.
3. **Graduation: At this time, we are hoping that the status of the epidemic will allow us to hold graduation as scheduled.** We will make a final decision about graduation one month in advance of the event. Students, we encourage you to have your guests wait to make travel arrangements until after April 18, 2020—we will be back in touch with you.

#### **Have Questions or Concerns? Contact Your Academic Advisor:**

- F1 Advisor: [Xavier Macy](#)
- F2 Advisor: [Nikki Williams](#)
- Career Launch Advisor: [Wenia Lee](#)
- SET Director: [DoQuyen Tran-Taylor](#)

If you believe that you have unique circumstances that increase your risk of serious complications from respiratory virus infections, please contact [Dean Davis](#) and [Student Health and Counseling Services](#).

Please note, the School of Medicine is not closing. One of our primary goals in taking this step is to support you in your social distancing efforts. We know that many of you can do that successfully and best at home. Some may need access to resources here for learning, and please be assured that the library and other resources will be here for you. We ask that you continue to practice appropriate social distancing, whether here at UCSF or at home.

Sincerely,

**Catherine R. Lucey, MD, MACP**  
Executive Vice Dean, UCSF School of Medicine  
Vice Dean for Medical Education

Past COVID-19 Medical  
Education and GME Updates

UCSF COVID-19 Website



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