

Dear Foundations 1 Students and Medical Education Colleagues,

We are writing to provide an update on our education plans for late fall/spring 2021. Thank you all for your extraordinary efforts to learn, teach, and support each other during these unprecedented times. We had all hoped for a greater expansion of in-person learning during the fall months. Unfortunately, the ongoing spread of the pandemic has continued to restrict higher education public health guidelines.

We remain [committed to the principles](#) we have followed since the start of the COVID 19 pandemic to protect the health, safety of all and ensure that all students have the experiences needed to progress toward meeting their curricular milestones and graduation.

## Virtual-Only Instruction Thanksgiving Through Winter Break

Based on student feedback, in order to provide continuity and equity of instruction for all students, and to accommodate student requests for discretionary absences, in-person learning for Foundations 1/Medical Student students in person learning will be suspended between Thanksgiving and Winter Break.

### Class of 2024 (MS1):

- Students who have been away from UCSF campus sites for more than 30 continuous days will need to return to the Campus/Bay Area by **January 10, 2021** to complete a COVID 19 test prior to the start of in-person activities.
- Inquiry Immersion (IDS 123A) activities will be offered remotely from January 4 – January 15, 2021. This allows students who require testing to do so prior to resuming in-person activities.

### Class of 2023 (MS2):

- Students who have been away from UCSF campus sites for more than 30 continuous days will need to return to the Campus/Bay Area by **January 4, 2021** to complete a COVID 19 test prior to the start of in-person activities.
- Foundations 2 Remote Instruction will take place January 4-January 8. This allows students who require testing to do so prior to resuming in-person activities.
- In-person Foundations 2 Clerkships will begin January 11.

## Foundations 1 Winter/Spring 2021 – Hybrid Virtual/In-Person Curriculum

The plans summarized below are dependent on the pandemic and city and state public health guidelines. Should conditions of the pandemic improve and SFDPH restrictions on higher education lift, we will re-evaluate circumstances to increase in-person learning. However, we do not want to over-promise what we can provide.

- Lecture and Small Groups (Foundations Science Block, Inquiry, ARCH Weeks) will continue to remain remote through June 2021.
- CMC learning on the assigned day of the week will be in-person
- Anatomy lab will move to a hybrid in-person/virtual model pending approval from the Emergency Operations Center.
- Kanbar Simulation Center activities will be available for MS1 students.

Our decisions about in-person curricular learning are driven by two considerations: 1) the educational activity is time-sensitive to keep students to graduate on time, and 2) activity is unable to be conducted remotely without serious loss of effectiveness.

## Future Opportunities for Foundations 1 In-Person Learning

We are currently exploring options to set up opportunities for telemedicine shadowing and opportunities to set up outdoor discussion groups.

For more information about how curricular decisions are made in the context of San Francisco Department of Health and Emergency Operations Center guidelines, please refer to the following resources:

- [Recording and slides of Class of 2024 Student Check-in held last Friday](#)
- [Foundations 1 FAQ](#)
- [COVID 19 Testing and Precautions Testing FAQ](#)

## Mental Health Task Force

We are working with a task force of students, faculty and staff to address student mental health concerns, and will be hosting an interactive F1 student check-in dedicated to mental health issues. For more information, please contact [DoQuyen Tran-Taylor](#).

We fully understand how difficult the COVID-19 pandemic has been to our learning environment and the great stressors we are all living, working, and learning under. Thank you to our students for your dedication, energy, and flexibility and to our faculty and staff for helping to educate the next generation of UCSF physicians!

Thank you,

**John Davis, PhD, MD**  
Associate Dean for Curriculum

**Karen Hauer, MD, PhD**  
Associate Dean for Competency Assessment and Professional Standards

**Lee Jones, MD**  
Associate Dean for Students

**Catherine R. Lucey, MD, FACP**  
Executive Dean School of Medicine  
Vice Dean for Education

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Medical Education and Graduate  
Medical Education COVID-19  
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Student Wellbeing  
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Medical Student DEI Resources

