

Students, trainees, faculty and staff,

I want to start today's update with some good news. I've been hearing stories about the volunteer efforts of our Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) community. Many of you are helping vulnerable community members with basic needs, and our students have been helping at 811 call centres and dedicating their time to contact tracing — identifying people who may have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

It warms my heart to see the compassion shown by members of our CSM community. Well done!

COVID-19 Town Hall, Mar. 19

- A town hall about COVID-19 and how the University of Calgary is responding has been scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday, Mar. 19, from noon to 1 p.m.
- Check your inbox for the invitation.

Learning and working

- The university remains open and we're taking every precaution to make our campus safe. We count on you to help with that by washing your hands frequently, wiping down your workspace and [social distancing](#).
- For those of you who can work from home, please continue to do so. Speak with your supervisor if you have concerns or are unsure of how to work in a safe and effective manner.
- I appreciate the efforts being made to protect the health of our CSM community, as well as the public's health.
- To help us all keep a safe social distance while continuing necessary business operations, UCalgary has purchased a cloud-based video conferencing product called Zoom. Visit ucalgary.zoom.us.

Education

- Remote learning for Graduate Science Education (GSE) students began yesterday, Mar. 17.
- If you have any questions, contact Dr. Tara Beattie, PhD, associate dean of GSE, at tbeattie@ucalgary.ca.

Research operations

- Core facilities at the CSM remain open and available.
- Precautionary steps are being taken to ensure a safe and healthy workplace.

- Thank you to everyone who has put their contingency plan into place.
- Key considerations and specific recommendations for researchers can be found on the [research website](#).

Personal assistance

- I recognize what a stressful and uncertain time this is.
- All UCalgary services, including 24/7 crisis support and other wellness services for [students](#), [faculty and staff](#) remain accessible.

Centralized messaging

- I'm encouraging centralized messaging. Please let me know if there's something you'd like me to address in this daily update.
- Questions, ideas or concerns can be sent to csmdean@ucalgary.ca.

Events

- All planned, in-person university events on our campuses are cancelled.
- The scheduling of future campus events is on hold until further notice.

We're continuing to follow the recommendations of [UCalgary](#) and [Alberta Health](#). Thank you for your patience as we respond to this evolving situation.

Sincerely,

Jon Meddings, MD
Dean, Cumming School of Medicine
University of Calgary