

Students, faculty and staff,

I know the past week has been a challenging time for you as we learn more about novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Although the risk of being exposed to COVID-19 in Alberta is low, it's important that the Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) supports the health system by doing our part in helping stop the spread of this pandemic.

Social distancing allows the opportunity to slow the spread. Aggressive steps have been taken in academic institutions in the United States and Europe, but the risk at the University of Calgary remains low. We're working closely with [Alberta Health Services](#), [Health Canada](#) and the [World Health Organization](#), and will continue to follow their recommendations.

We've set up a web page — cumming.ucalgary.ca/covid — which includes transmission mitigation strategies (also included below), resources and information on cancelled events. We'll send you more information as it becomes available but encourage you to check the page for updates.

I deeply appreciate the work that you're doing during these challenging times. The CSM leadership team is always available to answer any questions you have. Please send your questions to csmdean@ucalgary.ca and let us know how we can help you do your job in the safest way possible.

Sincerely,

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

Cumming School of Medicine recommendations

General strategies

- Wash your hands with soap and water at every encounter.
- Keep work areas clean with enhanced rigor including Lysol wipes and hand sanitizer.
- Self quarantine as per recommendations.
- Don't come to work if ill.
- Follow [Alberta Health Services' \(AHS\) recommendations](#) for interactions with patients in ambulatory and in-patient settings.

Undergraduate classes

- Preparations are occurring to move rapidly to podcasts and Zoom meeting education (timing is being evaluated daily by UCalgary's Crisis Management Team).
- Social distancing and hand washing during lectures (ideally 2 metres between people)
- Undergraduate medical education (UME) has prepared a document with a full set of recommendations for UME leaders.

Postgraduate medical education (PGME)

- Play an important role in health-care delivery and a pandemic offers a unique opportunity for learners who shouldn't be excluded from participating during health care crises.
- UME, pre-clerkship students **will** be restricted from direct involvement.
- Clerks and PGY1 residents **may** be restricted from direct involvement at the discretion of the most responsible physician.
- All out of country electives have been cancelled for both incoming and outgoing residents.
- All offsite retreats or workshops are cancelled.
- Full information from PGME leadership has been shared with program directors.

Graduate students

- Travel is to be postponed at this time.
- The university is calling home all graduate students from Europe.
- Supervisors are asked to delay newly starting graduate students or postdoctoral fellows until after July 1, 2020.
- Full plans are available from the graduate student education office, including mitigation strategies for thesis defenses should UCalgary have to close temporarily.

Faculty and research travel

- Faculty are strongly advised to cancel out of country work-related travel.
- Health-care providers who travel for personal reasons are asked to have clinical coverage back-up available for the two weeks after returning in case of a need for quarantine.
- All travelers need to follow AHS guidance for the [returning traveler](#) with respect to illness reporting, self quarantine and testing

Events

- The Cumming School of Medicine is encouraging all faculty and staff to consider cancelling or postponing large group meetings (>100) and other non-essential meetings until the end of June 2020.