I am emailing to try to keep you as up to date as possible with respect to the current and possible future issues related to the Covid19 pandemic response.

1. **Policy to protect learners**

   I have attached below an operating policy developed jointly by UME and PGME for all learners. This has been circulated widely to preceptors, residents and (with this email) to all of our students. It essentially just codifies the principle that your safety comes before the need to have you providing patient care and learning when something like this occurs.

2. **If you are unwell or exposed to someone with COVID19 (or might have it!)**

   If you are unwell or have been exposed to someone who may have COVID19, do not come to class or go to your clinical rotation; you should start by calling 811 for advice around isolation and testing. If you have questions beyond this, other resources include:

   Students contact [Student Wellness Services](mailto:sphi@ucalgary.ca) with any additional questions or to access various support services.

   Clerks can also direct questions about work in the clinical environment to:

   Further, if you have recently returned to Canada (within 14 days) and have fever or respiratory symptoms, or if you believe you may be at risk for COVID-19 for any reason and you are ill, please contact [Workplace Health & Safety](tel:1-855-450-3619), 24/7 at 1-855-450-3619. Please be aware that Workplace Health and Safety is experiencing high call volumes and we appreciate your patience.

3. **Travel**

   With respect to travel, I have cut and pasted (below) the most current update (March 10) from the University Provost about Covid19 precautions and restrictions. While this is current, as of today, the situation is very fluid. It is quite possible that there may be further, more restrictive limits on travel (both personal and school related). The key thing to keep in mind is that if you travel to an area where there are restrictions (again, those named areas may change on a daily basis) you are at risk of becoming ill. Furthermore, if you return from that area and are forced to self quarantine (which may be required, even if you have no symptoms), you will not be able to attend school (either in a clinical or pre-clinical environment). This will require you to take a two-week leave. While this is not an insurmountable issue for your training, it will present some potential issues. If you are in the pre-clerkship, you may have to make up missed sessions and defer examinations. In the clerkship, you will have to make up missed clinical time at the end of clerkship and will have to defer any exams in rotations where you have been away.

   I would therefore encourage you to think very carefully about your travel. If you are planning an international elective in the near future, I would suggest that you consider the above. If you need help with cancelling a scheduled elective, please contact me — I’m happy to write a letter to the program where an elective is scheduled to cancel it on your behalf, even if it is at relatively short notice. I would also advise you to contemplate any international travel that you are planning as a part of a holiday, as the same restrictions may apply, when you return.

4. **What’s coming for UME?**

   We are in the early stages of planning for what we might have to do if more restrictive local measures are placed on people gathering together: it is not beyond the realm of possibility that Universities will be asked to cancel classes. We’re already working on plans to keep the UME program running if this happens, largely harnessing our ability to use ‘distance learning’ with the help of Academic Technologies. We’ll communicate more as we get further info.

   Please keep an eye on all communications from Alberta Health Services, as they provide the most up to date information (links are in the email from U of C below).

   Please also be careful in your clinical environments. Use personal protective equipment as advised by your preceptors and other health care providers.

   While this is a very challenging time for all of us, we’ll continue to work together to try and stay on top of things.

   KB

   Assistant Dean
Good morning,

At UCalgary, the health and safety of our community is our number-one priority. Even though Alberta Health Services currently rates the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in Alberta as low, a team from multiple areas across the university is working together to coordinate effective action to limit the potential spread of COVID-19 at UCalgary. The situation is rapidly evolving, and we will continue to adjust our response plan as necessary.

If you or someone you’ve been in contact with has travelled outside of Canada, Alberta Health Services advises you to watch for symptoms like fever, cough or shortness of breath in yourself or family members, and call Health Link 811 at the first sign of symptoms.

If you or a member of your family/household has been advised by Alberta Health/HealthLink to self-isolate and obtain COVID-19 testing, remain at home, do not come to campus and follow self-isolation guidelines until you receive negative results and stop showing symptoms. Employees will continue to receive pay and benefits without interruption.

Travel from affected regions suspended until September 2020

UCalgary has suspended travel from and through countries and areas experiencing the transmission of COVID-19 until September 2020, and is asking students, faculty and staff returning from affected regions (see below) to self-isolate away from campus until they have been back in Canada and symptom free for 14 days.

While Alberta Health Services (AHS) lists only Hubei Province, Iran and the Grand Princess cruise at this time, UCalgary has broadened the scope of self-isolation to include the following locations:

- China
- Hong Kong
- Japan
- Iran
- Italy
- South Korea
- Singapore

As the situation changes, additional regions may be added to this list — up-to-date travel information for UCalgary is available on the Risk website.

Anyone planning to travel on UCalgary business is encouraged to complete a travel registration form well in advance of travel dates so you can be advised immediately if you may be impacted by further UCalgary travel restrictions.

All travelers should be aware that the situation may escalate quickly in any country — ensure your travel plans are flexible, purchase travel insurance with COVID-19 cancellation coverage, and avoid non-refundable bookings, if possible.

Self-isolation for returning travellers

Anyone returning from travel through affected regions should self-isolate away from campus until they have been back in Canada and symptom free for 14 days.

Those affected are asked to contact their supervisor, manager, instructor or other relevant contacts as soon as possible to arrange to self-isolate. People self-isolating without any symptoms, should expect to work or study at home for 14 days. Employees will continue to receive pay and benefits without interruption. Individuals who are symptom free after the 14-day isolation are welcome to come back to campus. Medical documentation is not required — nor should be requested — to return to campus.

Self-isolation means avoiding situations where you could infect other people. The following is important advice from AHS about self isolation:
• Avoid all situations where you may come in contact with others, such as social gatherings, work, school/university, child care, athletic events, faith-based gatherings, healthcare facilities, grocery stores, restaurants (common eating areas, i.e. UCalgary dining centre or food court, shopping malls, communal laundry, and any public gatherings.
• You should, (where possible) not use public transportation including buses, taxis, or ride sharing.
• As much as possible, you should limit your contact with people and avoid having visitors to your home. It is okay for friends, family or delivery drivers to drop off food or other things you may need.
• You can also use delivery or pick up services for errands such as grocery shopping.
• If you need to leave your home for an urgent errand, such as picking up essential medication, as a precaution to further reduce risk of spread, you can wear a surgical mask while you are out.

See the AHS self-isolation information sheet for further information.

Additional resources

Please refer to the following list of information and support resources related to COVID-19:

• Visit the Emergency Management website for UCalgary updates about COVID-19, links to several informational resources and an archive of UToday news concerning the virus.
• Students contact Student Wellness Services sphi@ucalgary.ca with any additional questions or to access various support services.
• Faculty and staff contact Staff Wellness with any additional questions or to access support services.
• Students living in residence can email residence@ucalgary.ca or call 403-220-3210.
• All international student inquires should be directed to international.advice@ucalgary.ca.
• Travel information for UCalgary is available on Risk’s Travel web section.
• Contact riskmgmt@ucalgary.ca with specific inquiries related to COVID-19 and travel.

We are doing our best to keep the UCalgary community informed as further details and instructions become available, but reliable and up-to-date information for Albertans is available on the AHS website.

Thank you for your support as our community navigates this ongoing situation.

Sincerely,

Dru Marshall
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)