

From: [Mueller, Bruce](#)
Subject: UM's Winter semester plans and the College of Pharmacy PharmD students
Date: Friday, November 06, 2020 4:41:03 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
Importance: High

Hi PharmD students

By now you have probably seen the email (below) from President Schlissel regarding plans for next semester. I have been participating in many of those conversations and I'd like to briefly give an overview on how they affect us at the College of Pharmacy. I will be able to give you more detail in our weekly Tuesday newsletter, but if you have specific questions, please type them here at this link so that they get addressed: [PharmD Students Q&A](#)

I hope that you noticed that most of President Schlissel and Provost Collins's announcement was to move the University more in line with how we have conducted our work at the College of Pharmacy this semester already. Along with the other health deans, I advocated that our graduate (PhD & MSIPS) and professional (PharmD) be handled differently than how the undergraduates (BSPS). Frankly, most of the President's message was directed at the undergrads and discretion given to units like ours with big graduate and professional programs. At a very high level, here is the impact on PharmD student program:

- **ALL PharmD Students**

- The PharmD program is a professional program and is not subject to the President's announcement.
- Courses will be taught as already planned, with in person teaching only occurring as necessary as deemed by the faculty teaching the class. There are less in-person classes in Winter than there was in Fall semester.
- **In person examinations will continue as they did in Fall semester.** We have strong evidence from the recent PharmD student survey to support continuing this testing practice that will be shared with you soon.
- President Schlissel prescribed Mental Health Break Days for undergrads, but did not do so for professional students like our PharmD students. Your faculty strongly believe that you need and deserve them and we are going to provide them, but we will schedule them at time that will maximally benefit our students vs. some random Wednesday.
 - Therefore the **BIGGEST** difference between the President's message on Mental Health Break Days and our PharmD schedule is **we will NOT be using the dates identified for undergrads for PharmD students.**
 - It is likely that the best days for P1 students are different than the P2s or P3s, so Mental Health Break days may differ between class cohorts.
 - These dates will be identified after Dean Sweet confers with the Winter semester PharmD course coordinators. I plan to identify the dates before

Thanksgiving.

- We will coordinate break days once the exam schedule has been finalized so that your break comes at a time best for your class.

- IPPE schedules will go as planned currently, but the Mental Health Break days may influence some students differently than others because some of you have IPPEs on different days than other students. Dean Walker's experiential education group will work with you if you are affected by Mental Health Break Days.

- COVID Testing will be available weekly for PharmD students on request even if asymptomatic. There are ongoing discussions at the University level that perhaps they should be mandatory because our students have greater contact with patients. This has not been decided yet, but I am interested in your thoughts on this question.

- **P4 students:**
 - No changes are expected in the APPE or PharmD Investigations projects. Remember the PDI final manuscript deadline is soon.
 - I mentioned COVID Testing for PharmD students above. I recognize that many P4s are not even in Ann Arbor. As the University sorts through all this, I will keep you informed on the progress. We will come up with something sensible.
 - It is possible that your APPE sites will demand COVID testing of you, and if they do, we will follow the customs of your APPE site, like we do for other site-specific requirements.

As you might imagine, the situation is fluid. My Zoom fatigue is based on being in all these planning meetings. Our office is working to operationalize this as fast as we can, but like I mentioned, we are already doing almost all of these things in the President's message. I could use your help in helping me identify issues that are not immediately apparent but affect you. I know that we are all operating at 200% right now. Please take some time to enjoy what promises to be a beautiful Fall weekend in Michigan.

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From: President Mark S. Schlissel <targetemail@umich.edu>

Sent: Friday, November 6, 2020 11:16 AM

To: muellerb@umich.edu

Subject: More testing and remote learning options for our winter semester

To All Members of the Campus Community:

Our current semester has been like no other, with our students, faculty and staff exhibiting innovation and resilience as we taught, learned, advanced research, cared for patients and served our communities under the most challenging of circumstances. We studied in tents, wore PPE in our labs, worked from home and discovered new ways to share our creativity and access to museums and performances.

It has also been difficult. We were forced to navigate challenging modes of instruction, serious disruptions to work and personal lives, and fear and anxiety from living with COVID-19 in our community.

The pandemic hasn't gone away, COVID-19 case numbers continue to increase in Michigan and around the nation, and the winter will bring new and likely greater challenges. We know that cold and flu season, colder weather, and "COVID fatigue" present very real obstacles for us. To address these realities, our winter term plan includes:

- Major increases in asymptomatic testing to detect virus infection that will be mandatory for some and easier to access for many individuals in the campus community.
- Only courses that must be taught in person will be delivered that way, as determined by instructors and program leaders.
- To reduce density in our residence halls, undergraduates who don't need to be on campus should remain at their permanent residences for the semester and study remotely. U-M Housing will move exclusively to single-room occupancy. We will continue to provide a safe place for smaller numbers in our residence halls – particularly, those students for whom U-M is their home or who need to be on campus for health and safety reasons, required aspects of their curricula, or other extraordinary, extenuating circumstances.

As the Winter 2021 Coordinating Committee said, "in the summer, decisions needed to be made with very little evidence. Looking forward to winter term, we have a small but growing base of experience and reflection to assist in guiding our choices." Some of our fall plans worked well, and others didn't. We were able to anticipate and prepare for many challenges, but for others we needed greater engagement in order to better address what our community was dealing with every day.

We have [engaged broadly](#) across the campus to gather input from faculty, staff, students and key experts. Our [plan for the winter term](#) reflects what we learned, what many of you have recommended, and what we've heard that you hope to achieve going forward. Thanks to your experiences, the feedback you've shared and our continual commitment to learning and doing better, we will apply several important lessons that will help us in the months ahead:

Safety remains an utmost concern throughout our community. We saw this in our surveys and heard it first-hand in discussions. We will prioritize the health of our students, staff, faculty and the surrounding community.

- Students and instructors want to continue to advance their academic goals as effectively and safely as possible, and we want all students to continue their progress towards graduation. Our plans emphasize our academic mission, with safety measures to address key concerns and more options for remote instruction. No instructors will be required to teach in person if they choose not to.
- Activities beyond academics are essential to the success of everyone in our community. We will work to ensure that student life on and off campus as well as staff and faculty working conditions are as safe, engaging and supportive as possible.
- The stresses felt in our community due to 2020's combination of threats have been unprecedented. We must support all members of our community as they work through them, both as individuals and family members, and as contributors to our campus community. Mental health and community well-being are key components of our plans, and lower density across campus is aimed at relieving some of the higher stress work for staff.

We want to make it easier for all members of our community to comply with public health guidelines and ease pressure on our quarantine and isolation housing and contact tracing. We will also intensify our enforcement of public health guidelines for our community.

Additional details on our winter plans are available in the [University Record](#) and on the Campus Maize and Blueprint [winter term page](#). We will also be presenting information on different aspects of the winter plan during our Campus Weekly COVID-19 Briefing later today at 1:00 p.m. The briefing will be posted [here](#) when the recording is available, and you can also see updates on current campus conditions on our [COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Further information for undergraduate students in our residence halls will be shared later today. Please note that graduate and professional housing will remain unchanged as there has been very little COVID-19 transmission in those communities. We know that reducing the number of undergraduates in our residence halls will diminish a treasured part of our students' college experience in a way that is inconceivable during normal times. This was a very difficult decision we had to make to support health and safety, and we apologize for the disruption it will cause.

I want to thank all of you who have responded to our surveys and shared your experiences on our COVID-19 response. There are different views on what an ideal semester looks like for U-M. That's not a surprise given the diversity of our campus. We can't achieve our aspirations as a university without you. Many of our new efforts are the result of your feedback – and your candor and engagement are making us better and safer as a university.

I join all of you in wishing that our winter term could be normal, and we could enjoy the transition into spring free of the anxieties of this pandemic. The semester will be the third consecutive one of hardship for our community. I pledge that we will continue to engage and listen to your concerns as we work to make the winter semester a positive one despite these

difficult circumstances.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Schlissel, M.D., Ph.D.
President

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