



MEMORANDUM

Date: December 22, 2021
To: Department Heads and School Directors
From: Dermot Kelleher MB, MD, FRCP, FRCPI, FMedSci, FCAHS, FRCPC, AGAF
Professor, Department of Medicine, Dean, Faculty of Medicine
Vice-President, Health
The University of British Columbia

Important: Preparations for Winter Session Term 2

Dear students, faculty and staff,

Today, I am writing to advise you that discussions are underway regarding UBC Winter Session Term 2 (WT2) classes, scheduled to begin as early as January 4, 2022.

The Faculty of Medicine (the Faculty) recognizes that we are entering a period of maximum uncertainty with respect to the evolving pandemic situation. The Faculty is actively engaged in the development of a number of response strategies and plans so that we can continue to deliver high-quality education programs while maintaining the safety, health and well-being of our students, faculty, staff, patients and the communities we serve.

Therefore, following the [UBC Broadcast](#) sent earlier today, the Faculty is implementing a precautionary WT2 blended virtual and in-person approach that will operate until January 24, 2022, for all Faculty of Medicine educational programs – with the exception of postgraduate medical education residency programs, and programs whereby graduate students and postdoctoral trainees work in research laboratories.

For this interim period, virtual instructional delivery is being prepared for all lectures, seminars, small group discussions/teaching and tutorials. In-person experiential learning and practical/clinical experiences will continue in WT2, including: clinical skills training, clinical practicum, clinical rotations and practical laboratories. Students are required to attend all onsite, in-person experiential learning and practical/clinical experiences. This blended approach to education is intended to ensure academic continuity. For further details, all students are directed to contact their respective program directors/leaders regarding their courses and programs.

This interim arrangement is pedagogically based, with the intention of maintaining academic continuity and student experiences during the rapidly evolving pandemic situation. Ultimately, the goal is to enable the eventual transition back to fully in-person learning and instruction later in WT2.

Both UBC academic campuses will remain open and all libraries, student housing and services will be available. Further, administrative managers and supervisors will continue to exercise flexibility in allowing remote work, where academic or operational requirements permit; however, where in person work remains necessary, remote work arrangements may not be possible. Research and scholarship activities on UBC campuses continue within current safety plans.

The Faculty will continue to monitor the situation and is committed to providing further updates as new information becomes available in the new year.

LEARNING AND TEACHING RESOURCES

In support, the Faculty will provide the same extensive repertoire of learning and teaching resources to support online learning and instruction during the transition period, such as [Faculty of Medicine Virtual Education Resource Hub](#) and [UBC Center of Teaching, Learning and Technology](#).

For in-person instructional delivery, all attendees must continue to adhere to the public health and safety requirements, including but not limited to, the use of appropriate personal protective equipment and adherence to all Provincial Health Officer Orders.

STUDENT AND LEARNER SUPPORT RESOURCES

- All students and learners have access to UBC Student Counselling Services and the UBC Student Assistance Program, which offers free, 24/7 wellness resources for students, including personal counselling [here](#).
- Students and trainees in Graduate and Postdoctoral programs can access resources offered through the [Faculty of Medicine Graduate Student Wellbeing](#) office and [Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies](#).
- Students in the MD Undergraduate Program have access to [Student Affairs](#) which includes confidential and personal advising.
- Postgraduate Medical Residents have access to free and confidential counselling through the UBC Resident Wellness Office (resident.wellness@ubc.ca). In addition, postgraduate residents have access to [BC Physician Health Program](#) and the [VCH Employee and Family Assistance Program](#) which offers 24/7 confidential and personalized support.
- For additional program-specific support services and resources, please contact your program director/lead for further assistance.

In closing, I know for all of us the health, well-being and safety of our learners, faculty, staff and patients remain a top priority. We are truly grateful and thank you in advance for your efforts and ongoing support.

Sincerely,



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