

Dear SOM Graduate Students,

On behalf of the School of Medicine, thank you for your professionalism and patience as we continue to respond together to the rapidly changing COVID-19 pandemic. We have been greatly impressed with the resiliency, maturity and commitment to training exhibited by students, advisors, course directors and program directors alike over the past several months. I am confident that, by working together, we can continue to be an outstanding example of what can be accomplished even during very challenging times.

Here are several key points for School of Medicine graduate students who have returned or soon will return to their training after the winter break:

- All students are required to complete the One VCU: Responsible Together Spring 2021 course in Blackboard by Monday, January 25, 2021 and follow all School of Medicine and VCU guidance related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students should see the [One VCU: Responsible Together site](#) for important comprehensive guidance.
- The School of Medicine is working with VCU and VCU Health System leadership to vaccinate students. Due to limited capacity and supply of COVID-19 vaccines, we were asked to stagger vaccination administration to our students based on clinical care responsibility and deployment potential. This will help our system meet the needs of our community during this public health crisis.
 - Graduate students who have patient contact as part of their training programs and who may interact with patients have been notified today that they are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine and have been given instructions for signing up.
 - We plan to open up eligibility to students who fall outside these groups as more vaccine becomes available. The School will provide additional guidance for students not included in this initial wave of vaccinations as soon as it is available.
- It remains essential that we—all of us, regardless of vaccination status—continue with social distancing, mask wearing, handwashing and all other required safety measures for the foreseeable future.

Thank you for your patience and support as we continue to navigate the complexities of this unprecedented situation. We greatly appreciate your commitment to maintaining a safe training environment for yourself and everyone around you.

Please reach out to your program directors, advisors and my office for clarification, to get answers to questions, etc., as needed. We are here to help, and you are welcome to contact us!

I wish you a safe and productive spring 2021 semester.

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