

Dear UW Medical Students,

The omicron surge has created an onslaught of infections affecting not only patients but our healthcare workforce. UWSOM has been following the Coalition on Physician Accountability (CoPA) recommendations during the pandemic. However, CoPA has not released any new recommendations for this current surge so we are continuing to use the same principles to make decisions: keep students safe; keep faculty, trainees, and staff safe; keep patients safe and make sure they are receiving the care they need; ensure students receive the education they need; and make sure students are progressing towards graduation.

UW Medicine leadership has announced work-related travel restrictions. Given this, we are implementing the following, effective immediately:

- 1) UWSOM medical students will continue with required and elective rotations in the WWAMI region.
- 2) UWSOM medical students will not be allowed to travel internationally.
- 3) UWSOM medical students will not be allowed to travel to conferences, including those sponsored by the University of Washington School of Medicine.
- 4) UWSOM medical students will continue to plan their Explore and Focus Phase clinical schedule with away rotations needed for their residency applications.
- 5) visiting medical students who are currently at UWSOM can complete their current rotation.
- 6) visiting medical students completing a virtual medical student rotation during winter quarter will be allowed to complete the rotation.
- 7) visiting medical students who have a future rotation scheduled during winter quarter may be able to complete the rotation if the rotation is not available at their medical school and is needed for their graduation or for their residency application.

These restrictions will be reevaluated in February. We are hopeful this will be a short-lived surge and that restrictions will be temporary.

We know this communication will raise many questions for all of you. We encourage you to reach out to your Foundations dean if you are a Foundations medical student for the information that is specific to your campus. And if you are a clinical student, please contact your clerkship director and administrator. You can also check in with interim associate dean for student affairs, Dr. Tolbert, [adminsa@uw.edu](mailto:adminsa@uw.edu) or myself at [suzaalle@uw.edu](mailto:suzaalle@uw.edu).

Please make sure you get your booster if you are eligible and have not yet done so. And remember to wear your mask, keep your distance, and wash your hands.

Take care of yourself and each other.

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