

10/4/2021

Dear Autumn Quarter Instructors,

We hope that your quarter is off to a good start. Students are happy to be back, campus is bustling, and in-person instruction is going smoothly. Below are a few updates as we begin week 3 of the new academic year. **Please be sure to read the update on Thanksgiving travel and quarantine.**

Classroom Exposure Notifications

Some of you may have received classroom exposure notifications. Case rates are low (see the COVID dashboard [here](#) which is updated on Monday of each week), however some of our larger courses may be receiving multiple notifications. Multiple notifications doesn't mean that there is spread in the classroom nor that the course should move to online. Rather, the notification is a reminder to follow health and safety protocols to ensure the safety of our community. More information about classroom notifications can be found [here](#).

Planning for Thanksgiving Break Travel

[Stanford travel policy](#) has recently been updated. Instructors and students should be aware that if they travel internationally over Thanksgiving break they will need to quarantine for at least 5 days and receive a negative COVID-19 test. Anyone in quarantine following international travel therefore will not be able to participate in in-person classes during week 10, "dead week", and potentially exam week. Instructors, TAs and students should plan accordingly.

Instructors are not required to provide allowances to students who choose to travel outside of the U.S. over Thanksgiving break.

What's the Difference Between Isolation and Quarantine?

Some of you have asked about the distinction between a student in isolation as compared to quarantine.

Isolation - A person who tests positive for COVID-19 is usually isolated for 10 days; isolation periods for other contagious illnesses vary. If a student is in isolation for more than 2 weeks, they should contact the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). If an instructor or staff member is in isolation for more than two weeks, they should contact their primary care provider and Stanford Occupational Health.

Quarantine - A student who had [high-risk close contact](#) with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 may be contacted by Vaden and required to quarantine in their residence, as per instructed by medical experts. Note that the classroom is a low-risk environment because of the high vaccination rate and mask requirements. Instructors and students who receive a notification letter do not need to quarantine and the class should not be moved online.

Academic Support for Students in Isolation and Quarantine

Students in isolation or quarantine are encouraged to reach out to instructors to make arrangements for course materials and missed coursework. Instructors should plan ahead for how they will provide assessments to students who miss class (suggestions for managing class absences can be found [here](#)).

Administering Assessments to Students in Isolation or Quarantine

If a student contacts you and wants to take an assessment while in isolation or quarantine, instructors may offer the option of a remote assessment as they did during the pandemic. If the assessment is a timed exam, we recommend that the assessment be given to all students at the same time, using the timed upload and download feature in Canvas for the student in isolation. You may specify the same requirements for the student in isolation that are used for the rest of the class (i.e., if the test is closed book, it is also closed book for the student in isolation).

Thank you all for your dedication to ensuring a successful Autumn quarter.

We are deeply appreciative.

Sarah, Mary Beth, and Suzi

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