

Dear Winter Quarter Instructors,

Welcome to Week 3 of the quarter!

We start by sharing some good news. Student case numbers are dropping. As of today, there are 348 students in isolation. This is a significant drop from last week.

With the resumption of some in-person classes this week, we'd like to remind you that classrooms are among our safest environments on campus. They are a controlled setting, with a known and highly vaccinated population, fully masked and in ventilated conditions.

Students are eager to return to class. We are hearing from some students in isolation that they are concerned about missing in-person classes due to mandatory attendance requirements or lack of access to course materials. Please note that our health experts are doing their best to release students from isolation as soon as possible without compromising the health and safety of our Stanford community. You may have students unable to attend class and who are frustrated about being in isolation. Your continued flexibility is appreciated during this transition period.

We encourage you to attend our instructor meetings if you have any questions. Our next meeting is tomorrow, **Wednesday, January 19 at 1pm** ([Zoom link: https://stanford.zoom.us/j/93868239498?pwd=YzJBWGIUY2t3S1c3RjByK0pFMVVZdz09](https://stanford.zoom.us/j/93868239498?pwd=YzJBWGIUY2t3S1c3RjByK0pFMVVZdz09)).

As a reminder, instructors who wish to request an exemption from in-person teaching due to underlying medical concerns (e.g. immune-compromised) may make a request for approval to their Department Chair or supervisor and the Dean. Deans will forward requests to the Provost for final approval. Instructors who already have approved medical exceptions to teach online may continue to teach online for Winter quarter, but should notify their Dean or unit lead of their plans and identify the course (number and title) that will be offered online.

Thank you for all that you are doing to support our students during this challenging time.

Best regards,

Mary Beth, Suzi, and Sarah

Sarah Church - Freeman-Thornton Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

Mary Beth Mudgett - Senior Associate Dean for Educational Initiatives, H&S
Suzi Weersing - Associate Dean of Graduate & Undergraduate Studies, H&S