

## **COVID-19 Update: Decision About Winter Term**

September 29, 2020

Dear Faculty and Students,

I'm writing with a few important updates, including that courses at DLSPH will **remain online for the Winter 2021**. I'm also excited to share a new way for faculty and students to connect and socialize online starting now! And finally, we now have protocols in place for the small number of teaching activities that are still in person.

### **Winter Term 2021**

After carefully considering many factors, **DLSPH courses will continue to be offered remotely this Winter 2021, with only a few exceptional hybrid courses** covering content or competencies that: 1) cannot be taught remotely, and 2) are required for graduation. We chose to focus on remote course delivery in the interest of ensuring your safety during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and to be socially conscious and support recovery efforts by following the advice that those who can work remotely, should work remotely, so those who cannot work remotely are better protected by reducing connections and opportunities for disease transmission.

### **DLSPH 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Lounge**

We can't hang-out on the 7<sup>th</sup> Floor and pass through to see who's there, so Obadiah George has built a virtual "**DLSPH 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Lounge**" on Quercus! The 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Lounge provides a space for students, faculty, and staff to come together, connect, be social, support each other, and be in community. The 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Lounge can be entered anytime. We're seeding our the 8<sup>th</sup> Floor with Inspiration. There's something for everyone – whether you are inspired by art, nature, animals, music, dance, poetry, speeches, short films, memes, humour, or watching others poke goo. If what inspires you is missing – add it! This space is intended to be co-created so how our online community grows is only limited by our imagination! The 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Lounge currently includes the following ways to connect:

- Discussion boards – add a topic that excites you!
- Themed Virtual Meeting Spaces, such as The Lounge, The Kitchen, The Tree House, The Gym, The Spa, The Music Room and more!
- An Inspiration Corner
- Mental Health and Wellness Resources

Over the next few days, you will be sent an invitation to join the 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Lounge. It is your choice when and whether you accept that invitation.

### **Teaching Re-entry Plan**

Our DLSPH **Teaching Re-entry Plan** outlines the process for returning to DLSPH for in-person teaching activities. It is quite specific to teaching as there are already general re-entry and research re-entry processes for non-teaching activities.

Sincerely,

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