

 <p><b>UNIVERSITY OF Cincinnati</b></p> <p><b>Category:</b> CoM-Medical Student</p> <p><b>Applicable for:</b> CoM Medical Students</p>	<p><b>COLLEGE OF MEDICINE</b></p> <p><b>Inclement Weather Policy for Medical Students</b></p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 9/09/2021</p> <p><b>Prior Effective Date:</b> 8/01/2013 (Prior approval date) Approved by Com Council 9/09/2021</p>	<p><b>Document Owner:</b> CoM Senior Associate Dean for Educational Affairs</p> <p><b>Responsible Office(s):</b> CoM Medical Education</p> <p><b>Disseminated:</b> TBD</p>
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**POLICY STATEMENT**

The College of Medicine does not follow the University policy for closure due to inclement weather. This document applies only to medical students.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY FOR M1/2**

Cancellation of UCCOM events and activities will be guided in part, but not exclusively, by the emergency declarations by the Hamilton County Sheriff's office <https://www.hcso.org/media-releases/>. The final determination of weather-related cancellations will be made by the College of Medicine. The College of Medicine reserves the right to declare weather-related cancellations under all circumstances irrespective of government emergency declarations. In all cases, the College of Medicine will inform students of weather-related cancellations via email (messages will only be sent to students' official UC email account) and/or by posting on the College of Medicine website. Students are expected to follow weather forecasts, anticipate potential closures and cancellations, and monitor their email regularly. Students should familiarize themselves with the definitions and conditions associated with Levels 1, 2, and 3 emergencies.

(<http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov/SnowEmergencyClassifications.aspx>). Students are reminded that they must complete a Medical Student Status Form if they miss any activities that take place when school is open.

**Level 1 Emergencies**

- **Course activities proceed as scheduled.**
- If a closure/cancellation of all remaining events for the day occurs after a student has already arrived, he/she is expected to use his/her best judgment in deciding whether to leave or remain at UC until the emergency declaration is lifted.
- If a student is in transit to UC when a closure/cancellation of all remaining events for the day is declared, he/she is expected to use his/her best judgment in deciding whether to proceed to UC or return home.
- In any case, in the event that any activity has not been canceled but a student nevertheless feels that he/she cannot safely travel to UC, he/she is expected to contact the COM registrar as soon as possible (this should be done prior to the start of the activity), and complete the Medical Student Status Form (MSSF). The course director has discretion to require a make-up for missed required activities.

**Level 2 and Higher Emergencies**

- All activities and events will be cancelled and/or rescheduled.
- For clinical activities scheduled at off-campus sites (including, but not limited to, LPCC and IPE), students are required to contact their direct clinical supervisor to inform him/her that he/she will not be reporting.
- If a student has already arrived, he/she is expected to use his/her best judgment in deciding whether to leave or remain at UC. Students are encouraged to remain at UC in the event of a Level 2 or higher emergency until the emergency declaration is lifted.
- If a student is in transit to UC, he/she is expected to use his/her best judgment in deciding whether to proceed to UC or return home.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY FOR M3/4**

Cancellation of UCCOM events and activities will be guided in part, but not exclusively by, the emergency declarations by the Hamilton County Sheriff's office <https://www.hcso.org/media-releases/>. The final determination of weather-related cancellations will be made by the College of Medicine. The College of Medicine reserves the right to declare weather-related cancellations under all circumstances irrespective of government emergency declarations. In all cases, the College of Medicine will inform students of weather-related cancellations via email (messages will only be sent to students' official UC email account). Students are expected to follow weather forecasts, anticipate potential closures and cancellations, and monitor their email regularly. Students should familiarize themselves with the definitions and conditions associated with Levels 1, 2, and 3 emergencies

<http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov/SnowEmergencyClassifications.aspx>.

Students are reminded that they must complete a Medical Student Status Form if they miss any activities that take place when school is open.

### **Level 1 and 2 Emergencies**

- It is the general policy that the College of Medicine does not close for clinical activities or events in cases in which the student is deemed an essential member of the clinical team.
- For clinical activities and events, students are required to report.
- In any case, in the event a student nevertheless feels that he/she cannot safely travel to UC or his/her clinical site, he/she is expected to contact his/her direct clinical supervisor as soon as possible to determine if attendance is essential (this should be done prior to the start of scheduled duties), and complete the Medical Student Status Form (MSSF). The course director has discretion to require a make-up for missed required activities.

### **Level 3 and Higher Emergencies**

- For clinical activities scheduled at off-campus sites, students are required to contact their direct clinical supervisor to inform him/her that he/she will not be reporting.
- If a student has already arrived at UC or his/her assigned clinical site, he/she should ask his/her direct clinical supervisor if he/she is essential. If so, he/she should report as scheduled. If not, he/she is strongly advised to remain at the site until the emergency declaration has been lifted.
- If a student is in transit to UC or his/her assigned clinical site, he/she must contact his/her direct clinical supervisor as soon as possible to determine if his/her attendance is essential. If so, he/she should proceed to his/her assigned clinical site. If not, he/she is expected to use his/her best judgment in deciding whether to proceed to the site, return home, or proceed to another safe location.

## Appendix

### Snow Emergency Classifications

Pursuant of Ohio Attorney General Opinion 86-023, the sheriff of a county may declare a snow emergency and temporarily close county and township roads within his jurisdiction for the preservation of the public peace. Attorney General Opinion 97-015 allows the sheriff to close state and municipal roads.

### Snow Emergency Classifications

**LEVEL 1:** Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Roads may also be icy. Motorists are urged to drive very cautiously.

**LEVEL 2:** Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Roads may also be very icy. Only those who feel it is necessary to drive should be out on the roads. Contact your employer to see if you should report to work. Motorists should use extreme caution.

**LEVEL 3:** All roadways are closed to non-emergency personnel. No one should be driving during these conditions unless it is absolutely necessary to travel or a personal emergency exists. All employees should contact their employer to see if they should report to work. Those traveling on the roads may subject themselves to arrest.

To view the state's weather-related road closures and restrictions, visit the Ohio Department of Transportation's traffic website at [www.ohgo.com](http://www.ohgo.com).

### Phone Contacts

CoM Medical Education	558-1795