

**Wade, Nicole**

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**From:** Lynn Cooley, Dean of the Graduate School <grad.dean@message.yale.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 2, 2021 12:17 PM  
**Subject:** Spring 2021 begins: your questions answered + important dates

**Yale**

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

*A Message from Dean Cooley*

**Copied to:** DGSs, Chairs, Registrars

**In this message:** Spring 2021 begins: your questions answered + important dates

February 2, 2021

Dear graduate students,

Welcome to a wintry start of Spring 2021, and a special welcome to those of you arriving on campus for the first time. Whether you are well-versed in the measures we have taken to protect everyone during the pandemic, or are here for your first semester at Yale, please take this opportunity to read [the latest message from Dr. Stephanie Spangler](#) for a comprehensive update about staying healthy, COVID testing, contact tracing, vaccines, and more.

For the latest updates regarding testing site changes, [please see this message from Dr. Madeline Wilson](#). A new site has been added, the Lanman Center will close, and there is advice regarding asymptomatic and symptomatic testing.

### [Your questions answered](#)

Some of you have had questions about the [campus compact](#), which were conveyed to me via the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA). First, the campus compact was authored by the Provost's office with input from

the Deans and others on campus. It reflects the latest guidance from the State of Connecticut and public health experts as our response to the pandemic evolves. I know one of the most challenging aspects of this agreement is the **travel policy** – a necessary measure due to [high statewide levels of virus transmission](#) which are now very much on par with those we are seeing in most other states across the country.

**The Yale travel policy** now requires all students to obtain prior approval for any travel outside the greater New Haven area (New Haven County) for more than 24 hours. Travel Forms are on the [Yale Travel Guidelines](#) webpage, where you can submit them to the GSAS Health and Safety Leaders (HSLs) and Safety Team for advance approval. If you have questions about the Travel Policy, feel free to contact [GSAS.safetyteam@yale.edu](mailto:GSAS.safetyteam@yale.edu). This policy is undergoing further evaluation as I type, and may be updated in the coming days. As the number of people who have been vaccinated rises, we are also hopeful that restrictions may lift in the coming months.

## Vaccinations

While students (graduate and undergraduate) are not specified in the current or immediately upcoming vaccination [eligibility phases determined by the State of Connecticut](#), you may have heard that researchers in various labs have nonetheless been vaccinated. In some cases, students who work with infectious materials or interact with patients are eligible for vaccination under the [Phase 1a criteria](#). If you think you may be in this category and were missed, you can contact the vaccination program at [yhvaccine@yale.edu](mailto:yhvaccine@yale.edu) or call the Campus COVID Resource Line at 203-432-6604.

We await a good estimate of when most students can expect to be vaccinated. Students might be covered in [Phase 1c](#), which has yet to be defined. The progression of phases is dependent on vaccine supplies in the state and subsequent distribution to vaccination clinics.

As information develops, we will keep you informed every step of the way. When it is your turn, I hope you will not hesitate to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

## One antidote to social distance: the quaranteam

A good way to alleviate some of isolation of social distancing is to develop a **quaranteam**. A quaranteam is a social bubble of trusted friends with whom you can socialize exclusively – especially important over the

New England winter months. Please see [this helpful document](#) created by the GSA together with the McDougal Graduate Student Life Center staff and fellows.

## Important notices

**February 4:** The Graduate School Alumni Association (GSAA) and Careers, Life and Yale (CLY) are hosting an informal networking event for graduate students and GSAS alumni focused on career changes.

[You can register](#) for either of the two sessions (2 PM and 8 PM ET) offered on Thursday.

**February 5:** Friday is the deadline for you to register for classes. Please see [this page](#) on the GSAS website for more information and contact your department registrar or [Assistant University Registrar, Claudia Schiavone](#) if you have questions.

**February 9:** If you will be learning in residence/on-campus this term, please plan to have all your Spring 2021 COVID-19 requirements completed by February 9 to maintain your ID badge access. Contact the [GSAS.Safetyteam@yale.edu](mailto:GSAS.Safetyteam@yale.edu) with any questions or concerns.

**February 15:** In-person class sessions begin for those classes with in-person components.

Looking back over the previous 11 months, it is staggering to see how much our lives have changed, and what has become more or less normal for us now. Thank you for persisting with the health protocols while you continue your studies and research. As always, I am grateful for your care of others and your achievements and can only ask that you keep going.

With best wishes for a successful semester,

Lynn Cooley

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C.N.H. Long Professor of Genetics

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Graduate School of Arts and Sciences



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