

Subject: Winter Recess

Date: Friday, December 18, 2020 at 1:49:51 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: Lynn Cooley, Dean of the Graduate School

Yale

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

A Message from Dean Cooley

Copied to: Chairs, DGSs, registrars

In this message: Winter recess information and increased Bright Horizons back-up care days for Spring 2021

December 18, 2020

Dear graduate students,

With the semester drawing to a close, I want to acknowledge the courage you have shown through challenging times with remote classes, slowed research and COVID-protection measures. I deeply appreciate the advocacy of the Graduate Student Assembly and many more of you who provided crucial insight and planning assistance that helped us get through these past months together. I know it hasn't been easy. Even under the most trying circumstances, you have continued teaching, working, and taking care of others – thank you for everything you have done to continue your research and benefit the community.

I also wish to thank you for your trust and goodwill while we addressed problems as they came to us, one by one. I look forward to partnering with you in the coming year to ensure you continue to advance to your goals in health and safety.

Here are a few updates:

[Winter Recess](#)

GSAS offices will be closed from Wednesday, December 23 through Friday, January 1 with staff returning

on Monday, January 4. We are always available to you for emergencies.

Testing

If you will be travelling, please get tested 72 hours before you depart. You may self-schedule testing through the [Yale COVID-19 Screening Program](#) at the Lanman Center, 150 York Street or 60 Sachem Street. Test site hours have been extended to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 22 and Tuesday, December 29.

Please [see this message](#) from Dr. Madeleine Wilson for more information as well as symptomatic and asymptomatic testing schedules over Recess and in the days preceding the Spring semester, when classes resume on February 1, 2021.

Please note that the process for testing reimbursement over Recess has changed. Please use the claim form included in Dr. Wilson's e-mail.

For non-COVID medical concerns, [Yale Health](#) will be open as usual per the schedule posted on their website. Should you develop [COVID-19 symptoms](#), please follow [these guidelines](#).

Building Closures

For information about building closures on campus, please [use this key](#) to decode [the comprehensive table](#) of campus closures found on the University Office of Facilities website.

Childcare

Effective January 1, 2021, the total number of Bright Horizons [Backup Care/Crisis Care days](#) available to graduate students will increase from 25 to 40 days per student through June 30, 2021.

Sometimes nature signals when it's time to rest and restore. Even with its inconveniences, we can take the effects of the nor'easter as a sign that it's time to slow down for a bit. I hope you'll use the coming weeks to regenerate and prepare for the Spring semester. We have reason to have hope for the coming year, and I look forward to seeing you happy and successful in 2021.

With best wishes for the holidays,
Lynn Cooley

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