

# COVID-19 Policy on Lectures, Events, and Meetings

March 09 2020, Monday

First we want to say thank you. We are immensely proud of your dedication and compassion amid the challenges of COVID-19.

Out of an abundance of caution, effective as soon as possible, but no later than Tuesday, March 10, we are instituting a temporary policy to cancel all in-person large group lectures, events, and meetings across the Mount Sinai Health System, and if possible, offer a virtual alternative. This includes, but is not limited to, grand rounds, educational classes, administrative meetings, and clinical meetings. To be clear, the Mount Sinai Health System, including the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, remains open under this policy. We are just limiting the size of gatherings and also limiting visitors.

We are asking everyone to limit meeting sizes to a small group (ideally below 20) and encourage organizers to cancel any noncritical meetings or convert to a virtual means of communication. Any small group meetings that do occur in person must follow the strict COVID-19 Safety Guidelines described below. If someone believes an event should be an exception to the meetings policy (e.g., a blood drive), please submit a request to Vicki LoPachin at [vicki.lopachin@mountsinai.org](mailto:vicki.lopachin@mountsinai.org).

## Safety Guidelines: Requirements for Meetings

The meeting organizer will ensure that there are the appropriate people stationed at the meeting entry, and with adequate hand sanitizer supplies and directions/signage, to ensure that each participant meets the following criteria:

**Symptom check** If anyone has any of the following symptoms, or had them in the last 24 hours, they must be refused entry to the meeting: feeling feverish; new-onset persistent cough; nasal congestion and runny nose, or sore throat.

**Do not shake hands**

**Hand hygiene with hand sanitizer prior to entry into the room.** (If no sanitizer is available, the meeting should not occur.)

We ask that you carefully review the policy, which is on the [main COVID-19 page](#). If you have any questions (for example, if you are unsure where to secure hand sanitizer for your meeting), please email [CovidQuestions@mountsinai.org](mailto:CovidQuestions@mountsinai.org).

We profoundly appreciate your hard work and your understanding.

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