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Important Orientation Information and Immunization Action Steps

1 message

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To: "Office.of.the.Dean.of.Students [Organization]" <lawdeanofstudents@georgetown.edu>

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Dear First Years,

Orientation week is just around the corner, and all of us at Georgetown Law are eager to welcome you to the community. I hope you've had a chance to look at the orientation schedule for your section, posted here: [J.D. Orientation Schedules](#). We are making final tweaks, so you should check back before Orientation begins on Monday, August 24 in case there have been minor time changes for your section.

This final pre-orientation letter is intended to introduce you to a truly unique and exciting aspect of legal education at Georgetown, and that's our commitment to your well-being and growth as a whole person, not just as a promising legal mind.

We address two aspects of this below. The first is our innovative and holistic approach to the **core lawyering competency of well-being**, with a focus on the broad range of opportunities to explore this during Orientation Week. And second, we share essential information about how to meet the university's and Washington DC's **immunization requirements** so that you can participate in on-campus activities and classes as soon as the public health situation permits us to open them this Fall and beyond.

I. Practice law. Practice WELL.

As you begin your journey in legal education in this unusual year, you will discover that this is not just the motto of the Office of the Dean of Students, but a core mission and distinctive aspect of our approach to legal education at Georgetown.

We are deeply invested in your development as a whole person – not just as a skilled legal technician. From your first days on campus, our faculty, upper-division students and staff will encourage your development of practices that enhance your well-being – practices that the profession now recognizes as integral to your thriving as a student and lawyer.

These practices have never been more important than in our current circumstances. We are faced with so much uncertainty. It can feel overwhelming at times. Investing in our health and our overall sense of well-being are critical to ensuring we have the resilience and persistence to meet these challenges successfully.

Throughout Orientation Week and beyond, you'll have many opportunities to learn more about Georgetown Law's PracticeLaw/PracticeWell (PLPW) mission. We'll introduce you to PLPW's four key pillars of thriving for law school and beyond, with specific techniques to enhance your capacity with each pillar. These are: 1) sustaining your physical, mental and emotional **energy**; (2) keeping a **healthy perspective**, especially when school or practice gets stressful; (3) nurturing your relationships and your place in **community**; and (4) discerning a path through school and into the profession that isn't someone else's vision for you, but your own **authentic path**, animated by your own unique strengths and values and goals.

PLPW Opportunities during Orientation Week

In addition to various academic preparation and social programs during orientation, we are delighted to offer a series of optional programs that will introduce you further to PLPW before classes start. A few highlights, which you'll see in your section's orientation schedule:

Tuesday, August 25

- 9:00 a.m., *PracticeLaw/PracticeWell: Sustaining Energy in an Online Environment (Pillar #1 Energy)*, Wendy Christensen and Maura DeMouy
- Noon, *PracticeLaw/PracticeWell: Defining Success in Law School, Your OWN Version (Pillar #4 Authentic Path)*, Maura DeMouy and Professor Amy Uelmen or
- Noon., *PracticeLaw/PracticeWell: Sustaining Energy through Bar(re) Prep (Pillar #1 Energy)*, Lauren Katz
- 6:00 p.m., *PracticeLaw/PracticeWell: Mindful Practices for Distracting Times (Pillar #2 Healthy Perspective)*, Maura DeMouy, Lauren Dubin, Renate Seiwert

Wednesday, August 26

- 9:00 a.m., *PracticeLaw/PracticeWell: Sustaining Energy through Yoga (Pillar #1 Energy)*, Wendy Christensen

Thursday, August 27

- 9:00 a.m., *PracticeLaw/PracticeWell: Sustaining Energy through Core.Cardio.Balance (Pillar #1 Energy)*, Taryn Jackson
- Noon, *PracticeLaw/PracticeWell: Connecting and Nurturing Relationships across Distance (Pillar #3 Community)*, Maura DeMouy and Annemarie Bresson

PLPW Opportunities this Fall

Once the school year begins, I hope you will take the time to learn more about our distinctive programming and resources to support your well-being, such as:

- Our [Center for Wellness Promotion](#), which provides programming throughout the year, including a collection of [PLPW COVID-19 Wellness Resources](#) to support you during the pandemic, events on Law Student Mental Health Day (October 10), and collaborations with faculty, staff and student partners across the campus to help you develop the practices that will sustain you in law school and in law practice;
- the [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) office, offering telehealth appointments throughout the year and in-person counseling when campus offices can re-open;
- [HealthiestYou](#), a 24/7 teletherapy resource free to students who have the [Student Health Insurance Premier plan](#), available to you after August 15.
- community connections and individual support through Peer Advisors and Community Circles (more information coming soon);
- virtual fitness and personal training through the Scott K. Ginsburg Sport and Fitness Center (fall schedule available soon); and
- a range of opportunities for reflection and renewal through [Campus Ministry's](#) programs.

II. Immunization Requirements for all Entering JDs

As a reminder, all students must complete immunization requirements upon matriculation. Please review the following information and deadlines.

Requirements for On-Campus Participation: Fall 2020

Some of you will be moving into Gewirz this summer or Fall. Additionally, if public health conditions permit, we anticipate that many or all of you may be given opportunities to come to campus for limited academic or social purposes beginning in September or October.

To be on campus, you need to first meet all university immunization requirements. **The deadline to submit these is September 1, whether or not you are living on campus.** The information and documentation required, and the process for submitting it electronically, is found in the [GU Immunization and Health Information Database Portal](#). Becoming compliant may only require documentation upload; you may not need to visit a doctor to become compliant. Your documentation is typically confirmed within one week of upload.

If you have questions regarding your immunization records, you can send a secure message through the portal. This is the fastest way to get in touch with Student Health Services. Please see the [FAQs](#) regarding immunization compliance, as well as the [video tutorials](#) on how to upload.

If you do not intend to be physically present on campus at all during the Fall 2020 semester, you may [seek a dispensation](#) from the September 1 immunization compliance deadline. However, you are strongly encouraged to submit your required documentation for compliance as soon as possible.

Please email lawdeanofstudents@georgetown.edu if you have any questions or concerns about the immunization process.

Meanwhile, we look forward to welcoming you all at Orientation on August 24!

Best wishes and stay well,

Mitch Bailin
Associate Vice President and Dean of Students

Nicole Sandoz
Director of Student Life and Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence Liaison (SARVL)

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