Dear Physics Majors,

As you know, we are unable to hold in-person classes this year (likely through next spring term), and this is especially unfortunate for our intro and senior physics labs, many of which are required for the Physics option. As a temporary measure for this year only (starting in spring 2020), we have been converting some of our required lab courses to online-only, others are necessarily canceled, and the following accommodations are necessary for students fulfilling Physics option requirements.

Physics 3, 6, 8bc, and 77a have been, and will continue to be, offered online, and may continue to be used to satisfy option. We are working to increase the enrollment limit for Ph 8 this year in case demand is higher than usual. Ay 105 will also be offered online and can (as usual) substitute 9 units of the Ph 77 requirement.

Neither Ph 177 (Advanced Experimental Physics) nor Ph 7 (Physics Laboratory) will be offered this academic year. Current sophomores can substitute the Ph 7 requirement with an additional 9 units of advanced physics elective. Ph 77b had to be cancelled this winter, and likely will not be offered this spring either. Possible Ph 77b substitutes include Ph 118, APh/EE 109, and APh/Ph 138.

All other lab physics option requirements remain intact and can be satisfied with online courses that will be offered this academic year.

If you are a sophomore and potentially interested in taking Ph 6 and/or Ph 7 next year, please contact Frank Rice (rice@caltech.edu). Note that Ph 6 may continue to be online-only next year, and there is also no guarantee that we will be able to offer Ph 7 next year.

If you are a senior and have any concerns about graduation due to pandemic-related issues, please contact Jason Alicea (aliceaj@caltech.edu).

We hope you are doing well, and thank you for continuing to be a vital part of Caltech despite the present circumstances.

Sincerely,
Jason Alicea & Alan Weinstein