In order to address the loss of crystallographic training opportunities resulting from the cancellation of conventional schools around the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic we have begun an online crystallography school with live lectures and live Q&A using Zoom Webinar. Over the course of the first two years of the COVID lockdown we held two beginner schools and two advanced schools. Since we were trying to reach a large audience in a relatively short period of time we have limited the school to ten 1-1.5 hour lectures covering the basics of small molecule crystallography including data collection, data processing and structure solution. In the schools, we will also cover some advanced topics that students commonly see in their work: absolute structure determination, twinning and disorder. To round out the education, we will provide lectures on macromolecular crystallography and powder diffraction. So that students might practice on their own, we used freely available data reduction and structure solution software, as well as data sets with which to practice. To complete the course we also developed an online examination and certification process.

In this presentation, we will provide some insight into the issues of holding lectures with up to 750 students of very diverse backgrounds and review the efficacy of the school in teaching crystallography for the four cohorts of students.