

March 11, 2020

Dear colleagues,

I am sure you have been following recent news reports on the coronavirus / COVID-19, and I know you have been anxious to learn more about how Boston University and our School are responding to this situation. I also appreciated your patience as we developed the following plan. Ultimately, your health and well-being are my top priorities, so I wanted to ensure that I was sharing the most accurate and concrete information available.

This is a rapidly evolving situation, and while I am confident that the risk to those on campus remains low, it is important that Boston University take steps now to prevent the continued spread of the virus.

Following on the more definitive guidance announced yesterday by Gov. Charlie Baker and state public health officials, Boston University released today updated information about its institutional response to COVID-19 and the steps required by each member of the university's community. This plan is in effect from Monday, March 16, 2020, until Monday, April 13, 2020. The university will provide regular updates on this plan, and will announce plans for the remainder of the semester well in advance of April 13.

I have outlined below how this guidance will affect the Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine community, but I also want to underscore that GSDM is in a unique position, given that direct patient care is a central component of our students' educational experience. It is critical that both our Patient Treatment Centers and our Simulation Learning Center continue normal operations so that our students remain on track to achieving the competencies necessary for graduation and that we continue to fulfill our duty to the patients we have the privilege of treating. The School's stringent infection-control measures ensure that we can continue to deliver high-quality patient care during periods of heightened illness, such as COVID-19, without compromising patient and provider health.

Predoctoral & Postdoctoral Patient Treatment Centers & BU Dental Health Center

We will continue normal operations in the predoctoral and postdoctoral Patient Treatment Centers and at both locations of the BU Dental Health Center. As stated above, our stringent infection-control measures ensure that we can safely continue operations, even during periods of heightened illness.

As always, all students, residents, faculty, and staff are required to follow the school's protocols regarding personal protective equipment (PPE). If you have questions about these protocols, or are unsure whether you are in compliance, please seek guidance from your supervising faculty member or your supervisor.

Due to concerns about COVID-19, we will be triaging patients as they arrive for treatment to identify any patients who may be exhibiting symptoms of respiratory illness or fever. If we identify any patients with these symptoms, we will take the precautionary steps necessary to minimize the exposure risk to our community.

Simulation Learning Center (SLC)

SLC classes and sessions will continue to meet in-person, as originally scheduled. By design, these classes "simulate" the environment within our Patient Treatment Centers, including use of PPE. Students and



faculty are expected to attend their assigned sessions. Summative examinations will also be conducted as originally scheduled.

Lectures/Seminars

Effective Monday, March 16, 2020, until Monday, April 13, 2020, course content and instruction will be provided remotely and classes will either 1) meet remotely at their regularly scheduled times (using Zoom meetings or similar software) or 2) have prior year's video recordings posted on Blackboard. Access to Zoom Meetings is available at no cost to all GSDM students, residents, faculty, and staff. Before Monday, please visit [this site](#) to ensure you are able to access Zoom Meetings from your computer.

In preparation for this move to an online format, we are working diligently with faculty and IS&T to get the necessary infrastructure in place, fully anticipating that there will be no disruptions to our curriculum. However, this is a new situation for us all, so we ask for your patience and understanding as we make this rapid shift in instructional delivery. Students with questions about specific courses should directly contact the relevant course director(s).

Course Examinations

At this time, no definitive decisions have been made about upcoming examinations. Most likely, course directors will individually decide either 1) to conduct examinations remotely using ExamSoft or 2) to postpone and reschedule the examination at a later date in the semester. More information will be forthcoming. Students with questions about specific course examinations should directly contact the respective course director(s).

Events

The university will not hold any non-academic gatherings or meetings during the time period covered by this latest guidance. This will affect many school events, including Science Day, off-site alumni receptions, and student-organization-sponsored events. If you have a question about whether an upcoming event is canceled, please contact our Events Office at sdmevent@bu.edu.

We are still in conversations with university leadership regarding the Goldman Gala, which is scheduled for Friday, April 3, and are working to identify a path forward. As of today, we have not canceled this event; we will share more information as soon as it is available.

Travel

At the direction of the university, all university-sponsored travel, both foreign and domestic, is suspended until Monday, April 13. The university will continue to monitor the situation and will release updated guidance when appropriate.

Faculty/Staff Working Conditions

The university has not implemented any remote-work requirements for faculty and staff, although they are recommending that staff supervisors work with the members of their unit to assess remote work options. We do recognize that one way to minimize the spread of this virus is through social distancing and reducing the population density of our on-campus spaces.

Given that, we are asking all managers to assess their department and identify what work and services must be done on campus and what can be done remotely. It is important that we continue to maintain normal levels of service while also safeguarding the health and safety of every member of our community. Managers should update either Tim McDonough (tmcdonou@bu.edu) or Patrice Freeman-Lau (patricel@bu.edu) as to the status of their respective staff.

If you have questions about your individual work situation, please contact your manager.

Facilities

We are working hand-in-hand with our facilities team to ensure that all spaces in the school are cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis. We have increased cleaning in common areas to twice per day, and all spaces are also cleaned overnight. All patient-treatment spaces are disinfected between each patient appointment.

We are continuing to monitor the situation, and will modify these processes as necessary.

Additional Resources

This is a rapidly evolving situation, and I will continue to share updates with you as I receive them. In the meantime, I also wanted to share some resources that can help answer any questions you might have about the coronavirus.

[Boston University COVID-19 Information](#) – The university created this website to gather together frequently asked questions about the coronavirus as well as to share resources and information that will help students, residents, faculty, and staff continue to be safe, comfortable, and productive.

[BUMC COVID-19 Information](#) – This BUMC website provides links to information concerning the BU Medical Campus preparedness and response as well as to important resources for faculty, staff, students, and residents.

Both websites will be updated on an ongoing basis, so I encourage you to check back frequently if you have any additional concerns. The daily BU Today email is also an excellent resource for the latest news and updates regarding the COVID-19 virus and the university's response. I encourage you to review this daily email as well as to read any emails related to this topic from President Brown, Provost Morrison, Provost Antman, or the University.

Sincerely,

Dean Hutter