



March 13, 2020

Dear colleagues,

As the coronavirus / COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, I wanted to share some additional updates about the actions that the Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine is taking to ensure the health, and safety of our faculty, staff, students, residents, and patients. Your well-being is of paramount importance.

We are continuing to look to President Brown and state public health officials for guidance, and are following the lead set by the university when it comes to developing our own institutional response to COVID-19. The plan outlined below is in effect from Monday, March 16, 2020, through Monday, April 13, 2020. The university is closely monitoring the evolving situation, and intends to release further guidance by early April as to what steps will be taken after April 13.

Clinical Operations

As I noted [earlier this week](#), 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. However, given the evolving situation, we will be implementing some additional precautionary steps, including:

- **Screening Protocols** – We are in the process of developing detailed screening protocols to use with patients, faculty, students, residents, and staff that can help assess whether there is the potential for heightened risk of or exposure to COVID-19. Included in the protocols will be the set-up and use of temporary, heated, and lighted tents, one of which will be a negative-air-pressure tent, located outside the school at the 635 Albany Street entrance. These tents will be used for patient screening as an important component of our triage protocol.
- **PPE Protocols** – We are examining our PPE protocols and identifying areas where it is possible to add in additional layers of protection.

More information on the above precautions will be shared as soon as possible from the Office of Clinical Affairs.

Academic Instruction Continuity Plan

On Thursday, March, 12, [a memo was distributed from the Office of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs](#) that provided supplemental information for academic-related contingency plans. Please refer to this memo for more details about the details of our move to online instruction, effective Monday, March 16, 2020, until Monday, April 13, 2020. Students with questions about specific courses should directly contact the respective course director(s).

Events

Under the new guidelines put forth by President Brown, all non-academic events scheduled between now and April 13, 2020, have been suspended. Given this, it is with deep sadness that I announce this year's Goldman Gala is cancelled. Obviously, we are very disappointed that we are unable to host one of our most beloved annual events, but your health and well-being are our primary concern. Please rest assured that all ticket sales will be refunded. If you have any questions about the Goldman Gala, please reach out to Amanda Warren at apwarren@bu.edu.

If you have any questions about Student Affairs- or student organization-related events, please contact Dr. Joe Calabrese (jobean@bu.edu) or Erica Stocks (emstocks@bu.edu) in the Office of Student Affairs.

For more details, and a full list of upcoming GSDM event cancellations and postponements, please [click here](#).

Commencement

At this time, the university has not made a decision regarding Commencement. Both the university and the Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine's first choice is, of course, to proceed with the event as usual, but we will be closely monitoring the situation and take the appropriate measures in order to keep everyone safe. We will share additional information as soon as it is available.

Business Operations

It is a priority for both the university and the school to maintain our normal operations, while also recognizing that one way to minimize the spread of the virus is through social distancing. As previous announcements have made clear, all managers should assess their department and identify what work and services must be done on campus and what can be done remotely. Additional details about how to support this process were distributed on Friday evening to all GSDM deans, chairs, directors, and managers. If you have a question about your individual work situation, please contact your manager.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Tim McDonough (tmcdonou@bu.edu) in the Office of the Dean.

Facilities

BU Facilities have assigned two additional facilities staff to GSDM to assist with daily cleaning, with a particular focus on waiting rooms and other common areas in the building (in addition to the standard cleaning protocol followed throughout the entire building). We have also distributed disinfectant wipes throughout the building, to be used as needed by reception staff and employees.

Additional Resources

This is a rapidly evolving situation, and I will continue to share updates with you as I receive them. In the meantime, please bookmark the following sites and visit them frequently as they are excellent resources for the latest information about the university and the school's response to COVID-19.

[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.

[GDSM COVID-19 Information](#) – This webpage will serve as a repository for all communications that go out from GSDM leadership to the school community. It also contains links to the BU and BUMC COVID-19 websites.

In addition to these websites, 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