

Subject: March 15 update to the GSDM community on coronavirus
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2020 at 5:33:46 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: owner-dent-staff-list@bu.edu on behalf of GSDM Office of the Dean
To: GSDM Office of the Dean
CC: Hutter, Jeffrey W, Guarente, John F, McDonough, Timothy W
Priority: High
Attachments: image001.png, GSDM Screening Final_03152020.pdf

Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine
Office of the Dean

Dear colleagues,

First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone for your patience and understanding as we have worked to develop a process to safely maintain clinical operations at our school during the ever-changing COVID-19 experience. While we are confident that the school's stringent infection-control measures effectively safeguard patient and provider health, we want to implement additional precautions as we navigate COVID-19. These precautions are consistent for both our 635 Albany Street and 930 Commonwealth Avenue locations, but the implementation process will look slightly different at each location.

635 Albany Street

On Monday, March 16, 2020, you will notice two tents outside of the school's 635 Albany Street Patient & Visitor entrance. We will use these tents as an essential element of our triage process for all patients as well as all faculty, staff, students, and residents. This triage process, conducted by both staff and faculty, will screen everyone prior to their entering our school for potential COVID-19 exposure. The process that we will follow will include having all people seeking entrance to GSDM sit inside the screening tent, in chairs spaced six feet apart, to complete the attached Screening Questionnaire. GSDM will also be performing telephone screenings for future patient appointments using the screening questionnaire.

Faculty, staff, students, and residents will be required to complete the questionnaire once a day. There is an electronic version attached to this email, which you can complete at home, print, and bring with you when you arrive at the school for the first time each day. If you do not have the ability to print this form at home, we will have printed copies available in the triage tent located outside the school. Please note that the school's East Newton Street entrance will be closed; all faculty, staff, students, and residents will be required to go through the screening process before entering the building.

For patients, faculty, staff, students, and residents, depending on the responses provided, we will take one of the following actions described below:

1. Patients, faculty, staff, students, and residents responding in the negative to all questions and exhibiting no symptoms of acute respiratory illness will be allowed to enter the building.
2. Patients responding in the affirmative to any one of the questions or exhibiting symptoms of acute respiratory illness will not be allowed to enter the building; will be instructed to return to their home; to contact their personal physician or the hospital in which they receive their healthcare; and to reschedule their dental

- appointment.
3. Faculty, staff, students, and residents responding in the affirmative to any one of the questions or exhibiting symptoms of acute respiratory illness will be sent home and instructed to contact their personal physician or the BU Offices of Student Health or Occupational Health as deemed appropriate.
 4. Patients who respond in the affirmative to any one of the questions or who are exhibiting symptoms of acute respiratory illness and who are not willing to reschedule their appointment due to the severity of their dental need will be asked to wear a mask and will be seated in the evaluation tent, in chairs spaced six feet apart. This second tent will be a negative pressure tent, located outside of our building, and will be where faculty (who have already been screened that day) complete a further evaluation. This further evaluation will include: assessment of oral healthcare need(s); duration of travel history; temperature evaluation; and review of medical history.
 - If, as a result of our further evaluation, a patient is deemed to be at high risk of COVID-19 and requires urgent oral healthcare, they will be referred to BMC or a hospital emergency room of their choosing.
 - If, as a result of our further evaluation, a patient is deemed to be at high risk of COVID-19 and requires elective oral healthcare, they will be instructed to return to their home, and to contact their personal physician or the hospital in which they receive their healthcare.
 - If, as a result of our further evaluation, a patient is deemed not to be at risk of COVID-19, they may be asked to continue wearing a mask and to be seated in our patient waiting area, while they wait for their oral healthcare provider

I would also like to share that along with the process that I have already described, we will have face shields available for your use.

930 Commonwealth Avenue

Only one patient will be allowed to enter the front desk area at a time; other patients will remain in the hallway outside of the Dental Health Center. Each patient will be screened, using the attached Screening Questionnaire, by a Dental Health Center staff member in full personal protective equipment (PPE). The staff member will remain six feet away from the patient while conducting the screening process. Dental Health Center staff will also be performing telephone screenings for future patient appointments using the screening questionnaire.

Patients or employees responding in the negative to all questions and exhibiting no symptoms of acute respiratory illness will be allowed to enter the building.

Patients responding in the affirmative to any one of the questions or exhibiting symptoms of acute respiratory illness will not be allowed to enter the building; will be instructed to return to their home; to contact their personal physician or the hospital in which they receive their healthcare; and to reschedule their dental appointment.

Employees responding in the affirmative to any one of the questions or exhibiting symptoms of acute respiratory illness will be sent home and instructed to contact their personal physician or the BU Offices of Occupational Health as deemed appropriate.

It is our intent to keep our patient treatment operation open while maintaining a safe environment, and I know that working together we can make this happen. Again, thank you for your patience and I look forward to working with you to ensure a safe environment during this COVID-19 experience.

Sincerely,
Dean Hutter

