

**Subject:** March 19 update to the GSDM community on coronavirus  
**Date:** Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 2:59:16 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** GSDM Office of the Dean  
**To:** GSDM Office of the Dean  
**CC:** Hutter, Jeffrey W  
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## **Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine Office of the Dean**

Dear colleagues,

I am sure by now that all of you have read President Brown's March 17 memorandum, in which he shares that Boston University will *not* resume in-person instruction during the Spring 2020 semester. Obviously, this is not the outcome that any of us hoped for when, just a week ago, the university announced the move to online instruction – but this is what is required to ensure the safety of the university community during the unprecedented uncertainty caused by COVID-19.

At the Henry M. School of Dental Medicine, this new guidance from President Brown does not change the details of our school's institutional response, but it does affect the duration of some elements of our plan. Please read on for more details.

### **Lectures/Seminars**

All course content and instruction will be provided remotely through Sunday, May 17, 2020, (and possibly later) and classes will either 1) meet remotely at their regularly scheduled times (using Zoom meetings or similar software) or 2) have current or prior year's video recordings posted on Blackboard. Additional details on our academic continuity plan are available in the [March 12 memo](#) from the Office of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Please note, however, that the update in this email regarding the Simulation Learning Center supersedes the information in that memo. Students with questions about specific courses should directly contact their respective course director(s).

### **Simulation Learning Center**

Effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020, through Sunday, May 17, 2020, (and possibly later), all educational activities scheduled for the Simulation Learning Center (SLC) will also be cancelled. Again, as indicated previously, please contact the relevant course director(s) with specific questions you may have.

### **Small-group Learning Activities**

To minimize disruption to students' education in these areas, and to the extent possible, we continue to keep small-group learning activities as originally scheduled and in their original format. As previously indicated, the rationale for this is that the University is allowing schools/colleges some flexibility to ensure that students remain on-track to completing, as much as possible, their dental school education. However, the fluid nature of this continually evolving health crisis may necessitate changes to our delivery format of small-group activities, especially those that involve hands-on components (e.g., Facial Injectables course for DMD 3 and DMD AS 1). Updates will be provided as soon as they become available.

### **Clinical Operations**

Effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020, we discontinued non-emergency patient care at both 635 Albany Street and 930 Commonwealth Avenue. We expect to maintain emergency-care

only through Monday, April 13, 2020, although that date is subject to change pursuant to new orders from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health or the Massachusetts Office of the Governor.

### **Research Operations**

All GSDM researchers are being asked to minimize research activity to the greatest extent possible, and to plan for this period of minimal activity to last for several weeks. In addition, as much research-related activity as possible will be conducted remotely. For more details, please click [here](#) to read a March 18 memo from our school's Associate Dean for Research.

### **Business Operations**

We continue to focus on maintaining our normal operations, and there have been no updates to our guidance in this area since [the March 13 update](#). Please contact your manager or the Office of the Dean with any and all concerns.

### **Commencement**

As of right now, plans for the 2020 Commencement are necessarily in flux, but we anticipate that the university will make a decision regarding Commencement no later than mid-April. We are actively working with university leadership to keep abreast of this situation, and will share more information with you as soon as it becomes available.

Also, knowing that members of the Class of 2020 may be anxious about graduation requirements, I want to assure you that their respective department chairs, program directors, and professors have been -- and will continue to be -- examining all available options to ensure a timely graduation. Given the importance of this issue, I will be establishing a task force to review and put forth a plan for addressing the 2020 graduation requirements for all GSDM education programs. The task force's charge will encompass both the DMD and DMD Advanced Standing programs as well as all Advanced Education programs. I will share more information about this task force as soon as possible.

### **Additional Resources**

As you well know, this is a rapidly evolving situation. While I will continue to share updates with you on a regular basis, I also encourage you to 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 closing, thank you again for your patience and flexibility as we navigate this new and ever-changing situation. I am so very proud of the strength of our community, and know that we will continue to find ways to support each other even if we are not physically in the same location.

Sincerely,

Dean Hutter

