

Subject: March 16 update to GSDM community on coronavirus
Date: Monday, March 16, 2020 at 1:01:37 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
Priority: High
Attachments: image001.png

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

Dear colleagues,

I want to start by thanking all of you for your patience, understanding, and commitment as we work together to carve a path forward amid the uncertainty caused by COVID-19. As you well know, this situation is evolving extremely rapidly, and we will continue to adapt our School's institutional response based on the latest information available.

To that end, we received yesterday evening a notice from the state Office of the Commissioner of Public Health requiring that hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers licensed or operated by the Department of Public Health reschedule or cancel all elective procedures, beginning Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Both the Patient Treatment Centers located at 635 Albany Street and the BU Dental Health Center at 930 Commonwealth Avenue are licensed ambulatory surgical centers, and thus fall under this order.

Based on this new order, we are making the following changes to our operations, effective March 18. Please note that all date ranges specified in this email are subject to change pursuant to new orders from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health or the Massachusetts Office of the Governor.

Patient Operations at 635 Albany Street and 930 Commonwealth Avenue

Effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020, through Monday, April 13, 2020, all non-emergency patient care at both our 635 Albany Street and 930 Commonwealth Avenue locations will be discontinued. We will, however, continue to provide emergency oral healthcare, and are working now on what the protocol for that care will look like. We will share additional details about this emergency-care protocol with the GSDM community as soon as they are available.

We have already started outreach to patients and are working on rescheduling all appointments for after April 13, 2020.

Simulation Learning Center

Effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020, through Monday, April 13, 2020, 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

Small-group exercises, especially those that involve hands-on components (e.g., medical emergency simulations at BMC; preclinical implantology), will remain as originally scheduled to the extent possible. As also 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.

Basic Precautions

Please ensure that you are continuing to take common-sense measures to keep yourself and others healthy. This includes the following behaviors:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol;
- Cough or sneeze into your sleeve or a tissue;
- Avoid touching your face, and use noncontact methods of greeting other people; and
- **Stay home if you are feeling sick.**

Additional Resources

This is a rapidly evolving situation, and I will continue to share updates with you on a regular basis. 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 closing, thank you again for your patience and understanding during this period of uncertainty. I am confident that, working together, we will come through this with an even stronger community and school.

Sincerely,

Dean Hutter

