Dear colleagues,

I know that the biggest question on your minds right now is: When we will return to in-person work, learning, and patient care? That is the biggest question on my mind as well, and I wish that I could give you a clear-cut answer.

As President Robert Brown shared in his update earlier today, the return to on-campus work and life will be a phased effort – more akin to a dimmer switch than flicking the lights on all at once. Underscoring every step of this phased effort will be a laser focus on your health and safety.

President Brown noted that clinical and research activities will be among the first on-campus activities to resume. Our Office of Research shared an update earlier today with more details on what that looks like for our school’s research efforts, and our Clinical Affairs team is putting together a plan to resume in-person patient care as soon as the state Department of Public Health allows us to do so (and as soon as we have the appropriate PPE on hand to meet all state and federal guidelines).

Maintaining social distancing and keeping the density of people in our on-campus spaces low will be critical to ensuring we can begin to resume in-person operations. President Brown’s guidance is that remote teaching and working will continue into the summer. We will continue to explore what this guidance means for our dental school faculty, staff, students, and residents, and will share updated timelines with you as they are finalized. We are committed to resuming person-to-person teaching and learning as much as we can as we go forward, especially for our incoming students and residents.

I also wanted to share with you some specific updates on different areas of our school’s operation – including some very good news about our Addition & Renovation Construction Project. Please read on for more details.

Construction Update
I am excited to share some very good news regarding our Addition & Renovation Construction Project, on which, as you know, work has been halted due to an order from the City of Boston. We have now been given approval by the City of Boston’s Inspectional Services Department to remobilize to the Addition & Renovation Construction Project site on Monday, May 11, 2020, to set up the provisions for the COVID-19 plan developed by Shawmut Design & Construction. Once we have this set up completed, we anticipate being
able to restart construction on Monday, May 18, 2020.

**Task Force: Planning for 2020-21**
The Task Force that is planning for the 2020-21 academic year now has nearly 75 members across seven working groups. Over the past two weeks, these individuals and working groups have developed key objectives for each area of the school’s operations, and now are working to develop the action plans by which we’ll accomplish those objectives.

The Task Force is on track to have a final report submitted by June 10, and I look forward to sharing highlights from that report with the GSDM community.

**Task Force: Graduation Requirements**
The Graduation Requirements Task Force has been working continuously over the last month to ensure that all members of the Class of 2020 – both predoctoral DMD and DMD AS students, and postdoctoral residents – are on track to a timely graduation. The work of this Task Force has been driven by a deep commitment to ensuring that all graduates are prepared to practice upon graduation; this is something that we not only care about personally, but that we also have to demonstrate to CODA, our accrediting body.

At this time, we have set a deadline of June 12 for members of the DMD Class of 2020 to complete their summatives; this will ensure that DMD students meet the June 30 deadline to receive a May 2020 diploma.

Members of the DMD AS Class of 2020 have until August 21 to complete their requirements, and we will be establishing more specific deadlines for that class once we have a definitive date for our return to the Patient Treatment Center.

**Class of 2020: Regalia**
We had been hoping that the Class of 2020 would be able to retain their regalia until our postponed Commencement celebration, but we have been notified by the university that Herff Jones is now requesting the return of all rented doctoral commencement gowns. More details about how to return regalia were sent to the Class of 2020 earlier today by our Office of Events & Meetings; if you have additional questions, or did not receive that email, please email sdmevent@bu.edu.

**Action Required: Predoctoral Student Survey**
Thank you to all the predoctoral students who have already completed the brief survey sharing with us their current geographic location. Students who have not yet completed this survey should do so as soon as possible. Collecting this data will help us to better plan for the future as we prepare for your return to Boston and move towards resuming “normal” operations at our school. Click here to access this brief survey.

Postdoctoral residents should inform their program directors of their current location.

**Additional Resources**
As always, I encourage you to bookmark the COVID-19 information pages maintained by the university, BUMC, and GSDM. Additionally, please do follow GSDM on social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) as we are frequently sharing information, resources, and stories about our community on these platforms.

I want to thank each of you for the hard work you are contributing to support our school and our community. Mrs. Hutter and I continue to keep all of you in our thoughts and prayers and to send our best wishes to you and your loved ones for your continued health and safety. Have a wonderful weekend and a very Happy Mother’s Day holiday.
Sincerely,

Dean Hutter