

Subject: May 31 update to the GSDM community on coronavirus
Date: Sunday, May 31, 2020 at 9:40:04 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: 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 am thrilled to share with you that we have received conditional approval from the University to reopen our school's Simulation Learning Centers (SLC). This is the first step in the gradual, phased reopening of our School.

We expect to resume sessions at the existing SLC at 650 Albany Street on Tuesday, June 2, 2020. We know there is a great deal of pent-up demand for the SLC, and we have created a schedule that prioritizes the areas of most immediate need, including the completion of graduation requirements for the predoctoral DMD and DMD Advanced Standing Class of 2020, and the postdoctoral advanced education resident Class of 2020, the completion of the D2 Preclinical Fixed Prosthodontics classes, and simulation sessions for upcoming CDCA examinations. Affected students will be receiving more information directly from their course directors.

The school's Information Technology team is also working hard on finalizing the set up for the new SLC at 635 Albany Street, and we expect this facility to come online in mid-June. As soon as this facility is ready, we will begin scheduling sessions in it as well in order to increase our simulation capacity.

SLC operations will look a little different than they did back in February. We have reduced the capacity of both SLCs to meet social distancing guidelines, and have also developed rigorous protocols for the usage of PPE. Faculty will be training students on the PPE protocols prior to their first sessions in the SLC. Additionally, we have designed new walk-flows through the building to reduce congestion in corridors. and there will be signage throughout the facilities to help guide you through these new walk-flows.

Finally, all individuals arriving at our school will go through a screening process before they can enter GSDM facilities, including the SLCs. The screenings will be conducted by a third-party company, Medix, that was vetted by the university's Medical Advisory Group; Medix will conduct the screenings in a tent located outside the school's East Newton Street entrance.

We developed our plan to reopen the SLCs based on guidance from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), American Dental Association (ADA), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Guidance, as well as consultation with Dr. Thomas Winters, Medical Director, Research Occupational

Health Program. The plan was then thoroughly reviewed by the university's Research & Clinical Working Group and Medical Advisory Group. These groups are both critical components of the University's [newly constituted COVID-19 Recovery Organization](#); this organization, is tasked with planning and coordinating the University's return to campus life. In mid May, the University released a guide to the first phase of its recovery plan; [click here](#) for more details.

I am confident that the plan we have in place prioritizes the health of our students, residents, faculty, staff and patients, and ensures that we can safely resume activities in the SLCs.

Our next step in the gradual, phased reopening of our School is to finalize our application to resume in-person patient care in our Patient Treatment Centers. Work on that effort is already underway by the Task Force for the Successful Planning of the 2020-2021 Academic Year, chaired by Drs. Alex Bendayan and Margaret Errante, and I am hopeful that we will be able to submit the final application at some point this coming week.

If you have any questions about the information in this email, please don't hesitate to reach out to your respective course director or manager, or to the Office of the Dean directly. In the meantime, 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.

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. We also again appreciate all of your support and patience as we work our way through the COVID-19 pandemic and the restarting of our GSDM Addition & Renovation Construction project.

In closing, I have been watching closely, as I am sure you have as well, the deeply disturbing news reports coming out from Minneapolis and many other American cities. I know that this may be causing additional stress and anxiety for members of our community, and I plan to work closely with Dr. Larry Dunham, our director of diversity and multicultural affairs, to ensure that every member of the GSDM community has the support and resources they need in order to process recent events.

Sincerely,

Dean Hutter

