

Subject: August 21 update to the GSDM community
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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, UMR Progress On Hold Brenda Heaton FINAL 8.13.20.pdf, Testing Requirements_vF.pdf

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

Dear colleagues,

As we continue to increase our on-campus activities, it is critically important that we all do our part to ensure the health and safety of our community. This means complying with all state and university public health requirements.

I know that there has been a lot of information shared about these requirements in recent weeks, and that there has been confusion, at times, about what action(s) is required of each individual. My hope is this email will help alleviate some of that confusion as I continue to share more information as it becomes available. I also encourage you to go to your manager or to the Office of the Dean with any questions you may have, and to check our school's [COVID-19 web page](#) frequently for additional resources.

Public Health Commitments and Expectations

All members of the GSDM community – faculty, staff, students, and residents – have a critical role to play in minimizing the spread of COVID-19 within our community. As part of this, compliance with public health requirements established by the state and the university is mandatory. There are several components to this compliance:

Face Coverings

All members of the GSDM community must wear a [mask](#) when in shared spaces on campus.

Daily Symptom Attestation

If you are in testing category 1, 2, or 3, you must submit the university's Symptom Monitoring Questionnaire every day – including weekends – beginning either upon your return to campus or September 1, whichever occurs first. You will receive an email reminder each morning.

If you are in testing category 4, you do not need to complete the symptom attestation as you will not be on campus this fall.

GSDM Screening (operated by Medix)

You must go through the GSDM screening (operated by Medix) each day you will be on campus and enter a GSDM facility. This screening is in addition to the daily symptom

attestation required by the university.

COVID-19 Testing

You must be tested for COVID-19 if you will be on campus this fall. The frequency of these tests is determined by your testing category: If you are in category 1 or 2, you must get tested weekly; if you are in category 3, you must get tested once, at the beginning of the semester; if you are in category 4, you are not required or eligible to get tested as you will not be on campus this fall.

You can schedule a COVID-19 testing appointment via the [Healthway web portal](#). If you have any questions pertaining to your results, please contact Healthway at 617-353-0550.

Health Commitments & Expectations Pledge

All faculty and staff must complete the [Health Commitments & Expectations Pledge](#), which outlines our responsibilities as members of this community, as soon as possible. More information on pledge requirements for students and residents will be forthcoming.

For your reference, we have created a downloadable overview of these requirements – [click here to download](#). This document is also available on our [COVID-19 web page](#).

As outlined above, many of the public health requirements are driven by your testing category, and all faculty, staff, students, and residents have, by now, been assigned to a [COVID testing category](#). If you are not sure what category you are in, please contact your manager and/or the Office of the Dean (if you are faculty or staff) or the Office of Student Affairs (if you are a student or resident). If you think you have been placed in the [wrong testing category](#), please contact your manager and/or the Office of the Dean to discuss further.

Failure to comply with the requirements outlined above will result in corrective actions, up to and including the possibility of suspension or termination in accordance with the relevant provisions of either the non-represented staff handbook, the respective collective bargaining agreement, or the Faculty Handbook. For more details on this process, please closely review [this COVID-19 Safety and Health Compliance Protocol](#).

Students and residents who fail to abide by public health requirements, including symptom attestation and COVID-19 testing, will be subject to disciplinary action. For more information, please contact Student Affairs.

Unprecedented impact of COVID-19 on biomedical research.

I am thrilled to announce that Dr. Brenda Heaton, assistant professor of health policy & health services research at GSDM, has participated in an advocacy effort to explain to Congressional lawmakers the impact of COVID-19 delays on National Institutes of Health-funded research. The effort was organized by United for Medical Research, a coalition of leading research institutions, patient and health advocates and private industry seeking steady and sustainable increases in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and is focused on advocating for increased funding for the NIH in a coronavirus relief package in order to help investigators resume paused research.

Dr. Heaton's advocacy took the form of a written piece – attached to this email – that was mailed to every Congressional office and shared via social media. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Heaton on this achievement.

Clinical Update

As you know, we moved last week to the second phase of GSDM's resumption of in-person patient care, increasing our patient capacity to 50 percent. The move was very successful, and the patient treatment centers at both 635 Albany Street and the BU Dental Health Center at 930 Commonwealth Avenue reported very smooth transitions to the increased patient flow. In the first week of Phase II, 635 Albany Street saw just over 900 patients, and 930 Commonwealth Avenue saw about 350 patients. This week, 635 Albany Street is anticipating 999 patients, while 930 Commonwealth Avenue is expecting about 350 patients. As part of Phase II, the school also resumed Saturday appointments, effective August 15, for the Department of Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics. The first Saturday was very successful, with a 90 percent attendance rate for booked appointments; tomorrow is looking to be as busy.

Elevator Capacity

I am pleased to report that, effective Saturday, August 15, 2020, we increased the capacity of the elevators at 635 Albany Street to 4 individuals per car. This revision was based on updated guidance from the university, due to the size of our elevator cars. The increased capacity will help maintain smooth and efficient walk-flows throughout the building, which is especially important as we increase our patient capacity.

As always, Mrs. Hutter and I continue to keep all of you in our thoughts and prayers. I hope you and your loved ones continue to stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,
Dean Hutter

