

UPSOM Response to Covid19 Coronavirus Outbreak: *3/11/20 UPDATE*

We have updated our community guidance in a few areas, which are highlighted at the top. At the bottom are previously issued but still valid recommendations, just as a reminder.

The situation continues to be rapidly changing. We will continue to post guidance as necessary, to keep our community informed.

Although there still have not yet been reported cases of this coronavirus in Pittsburgh, it is likely it will come to our community. The safety of our students, faculty, staff and the overall university community remains our highest priority.

In issuing guidelines, UPSOM is closely following recommendations from the CDC. We are obliged to follow guidelines from the University of Pittsburgh.

New Guidance (3/11/20):

The University of Pittsburgh today changed their guidance on how we respond to the coronavirus crisis. Conditions are changing—WHO just declared this a pandemic, and cases are being increasingly identified in the US. Although there have been no confirmed cases in Allegheny County yet, Pitt feels that it behooves us to plan ahead to try to limit the likely spread as we move forward. To protect your health and the health of the community, Pitt has asked all schools to minimize gatherings where infections can be spread, and maximize distance between you and other people, as best as possible.

To be clear—Pitt is NOT closing. However, entire university will be **suspending in-person classes effective March 23**, moving instead, as much as possible, to the remote education models that we've been discussing.

That means that we will **continue to run in-person classes during the coming week.**

MS1s will finish up March 20 with the micro exam and then go on spring break.
MS2s will complete ICS/CP March 19 and then move to dedicated study.

When MS1s return, we will run the curriculum remotely as much as possible, with details to be determined. There will be no in-person lectures or small groups in Neuroscience, Behavioral Medicine, EBM. APE will postpone their sessions (to be made up in the summer). Course directors will give you specifics about other elements of their courses (labs, assignments, etc.). Assessments will be either delayed or more likely will be done remotely (details to be determined).

MS3-4s on clerkships will continue to report to their clinical sites for work. Clerkships and electives will operate mostly as usual, although testing and didactics may be done in smaller groups or remotely. Domestic away rotations (and domestic visiting students) will continue.

Most school-sanctioned gatherings will be cancelled after March 23. This includes the large Match Day ceremony with all students, faculty, and families attending. We will be considering an alternate format with the senior class.

Research and laboratory work will continue as usual, including the summer research program.

Students are now strongly discouraged from ANY travel other than home. Students returning to the community from the eight countries on the advisory list (China, Italy, etc.) will be asked to socially distance. Students travelling domestically won't need to unless they've been exposed to cases or are ill. But keep in mind that this may change, and you may not be allowed back in to the university community depending on the situation.

Scaife Hall will remain open. The library will remain open. Students can use the building to study if you wish. However, we are strongly recommend that you maximize the distance between you and others, to protect yourself and them.

More details will come, and I'm sure there are a lot of questions. We don't know, for instance, how long this will go on for. Remember that we are NOT closing—staff and faculty will be working, the curriculum will go on. But the class suspension will hopefully protect us all.

General Guidance:

- Any student or staff member should consider themselves at risk if they have EITHER:
 - recent exposure to an infected person, OR
 - a fever (Temperature >100.4) and signs of lower respiratory track illness (cough, shortness of breath)
- High risk individuals should stay home and call for medical guidance.

Group	Call...
Students	Student Health 412-383-1800 Nordenberg Hall—Wellness Center (Mon-Sat) https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/shs/about-us/contact/
Staff	Employee Health 412-647-4949 Medical Arts Bldg, 3708 5 th Ave, Suite 505 https://www.hr.pitt.edu/current-employees/work-life-balance/wellness-life/myhealthwork-center

- Exposed individuals who have been screened and cleared for return to work can do so.
- Individuals who are severely ill should go to the emergency room.
- Students and staff are encouraged to avoid exposure to symptomatic individuals or travelers returning from high-risk areas, if possible.

- Some individuals may be at higher risk than others (e.g., immunocompromised, medical conditions, age). We encourage you to have a lower threshold for social distancing to protect yourself and the community. Please consult with your health care provider if you have questions about your specific situation.
- Our lecture rooms, hallways, and small group rooms in Scaife have hand sanitizers and bathrooms—wash your hands frequently! Avoid touching your face, cover your cough, and practice other routine precautions against infection. We have ordered surface disinfectants for the small group rooms—they are cleaned daily but the wipes will help for even more frequent cleaning.
- CDC guidelines will help inform prevention and treatment strategies, in collaboration with UPMC Infection Control. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

UPSOM promises to do everything we can to ensure that students are able to get what they need from the curriculum, even during this crisis. We will work so that students aren't held up in terms of their timeline towards graduation or other milestones. We will individualize this to provide accommodations to those who need it. Everyone needs to be understanding and flexible, recognizing that this is a very unusual situation, and the guidance may change in a short time. Communication is key—in all directions.

Travel Guidance:

- Individuals should avoid international travel unless necessary. If it is necessary, individuals are expected to register the travel through the [University of Pittsburgh International SOS Travel Registry System](#)
- University advisories must be respected.

Do not travel	China
Non-essential travel discouraged	Iran, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Germany, Spain, France

Effective 3/10/20

- Students returning from any country on the advisory list should voluntarily practice social distancing for a period of 14 days. They will be notified by the school who will assist them in arrangements, although they are still allowed to travel in the community as necessary (just not to the Pitt campus).
- We recommend that students carefully consider their travel plans. We discourage international travel. If you travel outside the country, you should be prepared for changes in re-entry procedures that may affect your plans—make sure you have money, supplies, or other resources in case you are held up or become ill.

Curriculum Guidance (MS1-2):

- ALL students will participate in the curriculum remotely.
 - Lectures will be livestreamed and/or podcast.
 - Patient panels/interviews will be cancelled or postponed.
 - Small groups will be accessed remotely, likely in shifts, utilizing Teams (Skype) or similar technology to allow for both audio/video capture. Participation will still be required.
 - Assessments (exams/quizzes) will either be postponed or done from home, depending on the course/assessment.
 - Laboratories or other course requirements/activities would be shifted to case-based or online, or simply cancelled.
 - Advanced Physical Exam (APE) and Clinical Procedures (CP) sessions will be postponed and made up later.
 - Students may be asked to complete some activities in the summer to make up lost curriculum.

Curriculum Guidance (MS3-4):

- We will follow guidelines from UPMC; students returning from travel or who had exposure will require UPMC clearance before returning to clinical sites—this will be done at MyHealth@Work 412-647-3695, Kaufmann Medical Bldg (3471 5th Ave Suite 1111).
- All international electives will be put on hold.
- Students are encouraged to report for duties on their clinical rotations for now. If the Pittsburgh community were to experience an epidemic (large outbreak of cases in a short time), students should follow the community emergencies policy, which allows them to use their discretion about reporting for clinical duties if they feel safe to do so.
- Students are NOT to work with suspected/infected covid19 cases to protect student health and ensure that our best-trained providers are working with these high-risk patients. This guidance could change in the event of a true pandemic.
- For students engaging in voluntary social distancing, classroom-based activities (e.g., bootcamp, ILS, Assessment Week) would be postponed or done asynchronously/remotely, depending on the activity.
- Didactics, standardized-patient activities (OSCEs), and other assessments (SHELF exams) in the clerkships will go on as planned.
- Virtual cases may be introduced more broadly to help ensure that students see an appropriate casemix despite the epidemic.
- Bootcamp may have to postpone or cancel WISER elements depending on the activity/calendar.

Staff Guidance:

- Staff should follow guidance from the University of Pittsburgh.
- Individuals engaging in voluntary social distancing may be given the opportunity to work remotely. Human Resources may help in guidance for specific situations.
- Staff deemed “non-essential” will be given every opportunity to work remotely.

Event Guidance:

- If you are sick, you are advised to stay home and contact the school for further instructions.
- If you are not sick but are concerned about attending, it is absolutely fine for you to opt out. Contact the school.

Important websites to monitor:

- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Pitt: <https://www.emergency.pitt.edu/covid19>
- Prepare your home: <https://www.wesa.fm/post/guide-how-prepare-your-home-coronavirus>