

# **UPSOM Response to Covid19 Coronavirus Outbreak:**

## ***3/10/20 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 (3/10/20):**

Currently, Pitt has NOT cancelled classes or events, because it is felt that the health risk remains very low. Because of that, UPSOM plans to continue running our curriculum as before. However, if Pitt does cancel classes, then we will follow their lead and initiate our back-up plans for remote teaching.

If we are forced to cancel classes in the curriculum (especially MS1-2 years):

- 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.

For clinical-based (clerkships/electives), at this time we are recommending that students NOT 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.

Even if Pitt cancels classes, students on clinical rotations (MS3-4) are still expected to report for duty and provide clinical care. In the event the university cancels classes:

- 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.

Keep in mind that this assumes that people are well and healthy. If any member of the community (faculty, student, staff) is NOT healthy, or has had a high-risk exposure (see below), then they should NOT come to class or to clinical sites. If you're not sure, DON'T COME IN!

Remember also that 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.

In terms of travel, 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. We recommend that ALL students travelling internationally, for personal or educational reasons, register with the Pitt travel registry (details below). Finally, Germany, France and Spain have been added to the Pitt list of countries on the advisory list—students returning from these countries will need to practice 14 days of voluntary social distancing upon return to Pitt.

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.

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## **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.

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

- 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.
- CDC guidelines will help inform prevention and treatment strategies, in collaboration with UPMC Infection Control. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

## **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.

<b>Do not travel</b>	China
<b>Non-essential travel discouraged</b>	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).

### **Curriculum Guidance (MS1-2):**

- Students engaging in voluntary social distancing will be given the opportunity to participate in didactics as allowed, remotely and/or asynchronously:
  - Podcasts or other videos will be provided for lecture content.
  - To allow for participation in small group activities, we will set up remote access through Zoom or similar platforms.
  - Physical exam sessions (e.g., APE) would need to be postponed; make-up activities would be determined on a case-by-case basis.
  - Assessments would be delayed.
- Other students are encouraged to participate in the curriculum as usual, unless the situation changes.

### **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 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Suite 1111).
- The Palermo elective will be put on hold until the summer.
- 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.
- 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.

### **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.

### **Event Guidance:**

- At this point, we are planning to carry on with all upcoming events (e.g., Match Day, Graduation).

- If you are sick, of course, 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>