



WAYNE STATE
School of Medicine

Coronavirus Communication to Students
Friday, March 6, 2020, 6:57 p.m.
Sent to All Students

Dear Students:

The School of Medicine leadership wants to let you know that we have been closely following the evolution of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). We are in daily contact with the greater Association of American Medical Colleges community to understand how medical schools around the country are responding and preparing for the evolution of this public health crisis and to share best practices. We acknowledge that this uncertainty can be stressful, particularly for medical students who are part of the health care community. To that end, we have assembled a Covid-19 Taskforce comprised of administrators, students and public health experts to stay on top of the situation, to keep you informed and to provide a forum to address your concerns. Your health and safety are our top priority.

Attached to this communication you will find a comprehensive information sheet prepared by your School of Medicine health officer, James Blessman, M.D., titled "Choosing Preparation Over Panic." It contains detailed public health information and important links for active updates on Covid-19.

Regarding the approach to the pre-clinical and clinical curriculum, we are following the AAMC guidelines (full document attached with excerpts below):

Nonclinical courses: Each school will make its own decisions in this area, following institutional policies and local public health agencies' recommendations. If a local outbreak occurs, local public health decisions must be followed, and schools will be obligated to not convene in-person classes, large group meetings, etc. Schools may choose to be more restrictive than local public health agencies require. Please know that we have started exploring contingency plans for classroom work/small-group work such as pre-record lectures and self-studies. Our aim will be to offer alternatives that will support your progress through the curriculum content.

Clinical rotations and interactions: Students in their clinical years (on their core clinical clerkships and clinical electives) are members of the health care team and can provide meaningful care. These students, after receiving appropriate training, are regularly involved in the care of patients with communicable diseases like influenza, measles, tuberculosis and HIV. In these situations, student level of involvement is determined by school policies that consider well-established transmissibility data and morbidity/mortality data. How can we apply these principles to the current situation? For COVID-19, we do not have these critical data about transmissibility, morbidity and mortality even as we need to make important decisions. Therefore, it may be advisable, in the interest of student safety, to limit student direct care of known or suspected cases of COVID-19 infection until better epidemiologic data are available. We suggest that, other than limiting direct care of COVID-19 patients, clinical students continue their roles as part of the care team.

Based on what we know today about COVID-19, most medical students are not representative of a high-risk population for the virus. Current data suggest that those most at risk are the elderly and those with compromised immune systems or underlying chronic medical illness. If you have a health condition that puts you at high risk or you have unique circumstances (e.g., caregiver for an immunosuppressed family member), please communicate this with your counselor and the Office of Student Affairs. We will work with the assistant dean of Clinical Education to help identify educational experiences that reduce your risk while meeting educational requirements.

Professor Teena Chopra, M.D., of the Division of Infectious Diseases, will present Internal Medicine Grand Rounds on COVID19 on March 13 at noon in the Green Auditorium - flyer attached. Grand rounds are video-taped and can viewed at home like any WSUSOM lecture.

For self-study, below is a link to excellent information about COVID-19 from the American College of Physicians and a learning (CME) module. As a student, you may need to join, but the CME activity is free.
https://acpinternist.org/weekly/archives/2020/03/03/1.htm?utm_campaign=FY19-20_NEWS_INTERNIST_DOMESTIC_030320_EML&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua

We will continue to share information as it becomes available and have created a MS TEAMS group called SOM Covid-19 Taskforce. This is a public group that you can monitor. There is a channel called Questions and Issues where you can post your concerns.

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Grand Rounds.pdf



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