The Daily Digest - GW Clinical Enterprise

This email is intended to serve as a digest of all messaging for our clinical faculty, students, and staff. We will send this email at the close of business each day, as we are managing daily operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This content will also be available at www.COVID19GWHealth.com - please refer to that site often, as we will be posting updates on a regular basis.

If you have feedback, please feel free to send to SMHSNews@gwu.edu

The GW Medical Faculty Associates

1. If it becomes necessary for employees who are required to travel into work to show proof that they are working at an essential business, the MFA has created a special letter that you will need to carry with you at all times (along with your GWorld Card). Your manager will provide you with a copy of this letter. The letter directs any security detail to a person who can verify your employment, should there be any questions about your status. Remember, this has not been enforced to date in the District of Columbia but is a precautionary measure.

2. MFA COO Ben Riestra discusses telehealth during COVID 19 - YouTube

3. MFA staff are now permitted to access the GWUH cafeteria to purchase food. Please note that menu offerings are reduced at this time to prioritize patient needs. In order to maintain
social distancing, no more than 2 staff members from a unit should go at a time and MFA staff should take their food “to go” and eat in breakroom space at the MFA.

**GW Hospital**

1. **Temporary Waiver of Pre-Requisite PTO Hours:** Effective March 15, the requirement to use PTO for the first two days of an employee’s illness, whether or not this is COVID-related, will be waived. Instead, employees may use ELB during the first two days out for their own illness, whether or not this is COVID-related. Employees are still required to contact Sedgwick, the GW Hospital Absence Management Vendor at 1-855-653-7472 and submit the required medical documentation for FMLA.

2. **Unemployment Benefits for Flexed Down Staff:** As we focus our efforts on COVID-19, we may have to flex down some staff in their usual responsibilities. If you are flexed down and have lower hours due to COVID-19, you may be eligible for unemployment benefits through the District of Columbia, Maryland or Virginia. We encourage you to apply for unemployment if you have been flexed down due to COVID-19. Below are links for each state/district. Follow the link for your area of residence:

   - DC: [https://does.dc.gov/service/start-your-unemployment-compensation-process](https://does.dc.gov/service/start-your-unemployment-compensation-process)
   - MD: [https://www.dllr.state.md.us/employment/unemployment.shtml](https://www.dllr.state.md.us/employment/unemployment.shtml)

3. **Leave of Absence Process Changes:** Sedgwick has made two changes to ease the Leave of Absence process:

   - Sedgwick will accept telehealth. You do not need to have an in-person visit with your provider.
   - Sedgwick has extended the time to provide medical documentation and is accepting telehealth documentation.

4. **Care.com:** Care.com is providing three months of free, premium access to their site for frontline workers. Visit [www.care.com](http://www.care.com) for support finding child care, senior care, special needs, pet care, housekeeping and tutoring.

**The GW SMHS**

1. **BLS:** For MLS students in clinical rotations, please be sure to attend your clinical rotations as scheduled unless the rotation has been suspended. If your rotation has been suspended, please be sure to let your GW clinical coordinator know ASAP. All MLS students are prohibited from any type of direct patient interaction during your clinical rotations. Any
questions regarding clinical experience or practicum courses should be directed to your assigned MLS Clinical Coordinator.

2. We have heard from members of our community that they want to support our mission during this time of need. The [GW COVID Response Fund](#) was established to support the work of our faculty, staff, and students during this crisis.

3. **TOMORROW! Clinical Public Health Learning Lab: Virtual Symposium on Covid-19** - George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) Clinical Public Health faculty will host a new learning lab educational series about clinical public health topics and their implications. The inaugural lab will focus on the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. [Click here to learn more!](#)