March 12, 2020

Updates for the MD Classes

Student Organization Events
As of today, all student organization events will be canceled until further notice.

Class of 2023
Starting March 14, all CAP sessions (ER and non-ER) will be optional and will not require make-up. In addition, students will not physically meet in POM small groups since some rooms cannot support social distancing.

The POM course leadership has proactively developed a back-up plan for each of these sessions (except the FOSCE, which will be canceled since it cannot be replicated) and will notify you prior to the start of each week how each session has been modified.

Class of 2022
We hope you are doing well. We are sure it has been a challenge to study and stay focused considering the evolving public health outbreak and the uncertainty it creates. Please know we are thinking of you and that we will be as flexible as possible should you encounter difficulties in scheduling your exam, health problems, etc. Feel free to contact Dean Goldberg with any questions or concerns. In the meantime, take care of yourself and if you need a reminder why you are studying, look around at all the health care professionals who are truly crucial in this challenging time. We hope you and your family are well.

Away Rotations
With recent guidance from AAMC and the LCME (our accrediting body) today, no domestic away electives will be permitted through April and May. This guidance will be re-evaluated for future months. Rotations in the local DMV area (1 hour driving distance) will be permitted. In addition, Active Duty Tours for students with military orders will be permitted.

Match Day
The student affairs deans met with the Class of 2020 President and Vice President to discuss options for Match Day given the guidance on limiting gatherings to less than 100 people. Class leaders will be in touch with the class about options.

Updates from the MFA

TO: All MFA Physicians, Advanced Practitioners, and Staff
FROM: Dr. Gary Simon, Director of the Division of Infectious Diseases and Vice Chairman, Department of Medicine
       Dr. David Parenti, Professor of Medicine
       Dr. Rachel Harold, Infectious Diseases Fellow
RE: Understanding Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Transmission
DATE: March 11, 2020

A message from our Infectious Diseases experts:

Guidance on COVID-19 Transmission:

- Transmission of COVID-19 occurs between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet). Transmission probably occurs through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The possibility of airborne transmission has not been excluded.
- People are thought to be most contagious when they are symptomatic (fever, shortness of breath and/or cough). Some spread might be possible a few days before people show symptoms.
- It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.
- Brief interactions with a patient with COVID-19 regardless of whether patient was wearing a facemask are considered low-risk. Examples of brief interactions include: brief conversation at a triage desk; briefly entering a patient room but not having direct contact with the patient or the patient's secretions/excretions.

Recommendations for MFA Staff:

- Please continue routine infection control measures:
  - wash your hands frequently, including between each patient visit
  - cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow
  - avoid touching your mouth, nose and eyes
  - continue routine clinic room and common area cleaning procedures
- The MFA has enacted special operations for screening and testing patients with concern for COVID-19, including a Contact Center to field phone calls and the MFA South Lobby Testing Center as well as GW MFA clinics. These procedures are intended to allow providers to proceed with continued workflow and excellent care of all patients throughout the MFA. Please familiarize yourself with these protocols and ask your supervisor if you have any questions.
- Providers should wear an N-95 mask, face shield, gown and gloves when engaging with a person under investigation for COVID-19 or when caring for a patient with confirmed COVID-19 infection. These items of personal protective equipment are available in your clinic area. Wearing an N-95 is not suggested for routine care of patients that are not being evaluated or treated for COVID-19.
- If you have symptoms of fever, shortness of breath and/or cough then please do not report for work and contact your supervisor regarding testing and evaluation.
- If you are returning from international travel please contact your supervisor prior to returning to the MFA.

Additional links of interest
Community Grand Rounds - March 11

Department of Medicine Grand Rounds - focused on Coronavirus
Password: 2cQ59dF2