Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020

From: Barbara L. Bass, MD, RESD ’86
Vice President for Health Affairs
Dean, GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences
CEO, the GW Medical Faculty Associates

Robert H. Miller, PhD
Vice President for Research
Senior Associate Dean for Research
Vivian Gill Distinguished Research Professor
Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology
GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences

RE: Interim International Travel Policy During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear SMHS Faculty, Staff, and Students,

Based on GW’s interim international travel policy that was announced by GW Provost M. Brian Blake and Executive Vice President Mark Diaz earlier today, we would like to inform you of the approval process for requesting essential international travel at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS). This process will assist us in facilitating, tracking, and making informed decisions around travel as we continue to navigate the evolving public health situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beginning July 1st and until further notice, only essential GW-affiliated international travel will be allowed for all SMHS faculty members, staff, and students. International travel may be considered essential for faculty and staff members when avoiding or delaying would cause harm to university operations, would result in loss of existing grant funding, or would result in failure to meet contractual obligations that cannot be renegotiated or postponed. Essential travel for SMHS students includes travel that is deemed necessary to fulfill graduation requirements. Any international travel that involves research that cannot be postponed or managed by alternative methods and is required to preserve the results of an ongoing research activity is also considered essential for faculty, staff, and students.

All essential travel requests by SMHS faculty, staff, and students must be submitted through the Office of International Medicine Programs (IMP) and are subject to approval by Dr. Miller for research-related travel or Dean Bass for all other requests. Guidelines for the SMHS approval process for essential travel requests will be provided to all of you in the coming days. The guidelines will include GW’s interim policy for international travel, definitions of essential and non-essential travel under the interim policy, and instructions on how to request consideration for international travel beginning July 1st.
If you have any questions about the process for requesting essential international travel, please contact Dr. Huda Ayas, Dean for International Medicine, at hayas@gwu.edu or the IMP office at impinfo@gwu.edu. Thank you for your continued cooperation and understanding as we work together to promote the health and safety of our community.

Best regards,

Dean Barbara L. Bass, MD                    Robert H. Miller, PhD