

3/18/2020 – COM Updates

Hello students,

As you are well aware, the coronavirus pandemic is creating many challenges – not just for our school, but across the country and globe. Thank you for your support, patience, and understanding as we all navigate through this unprecedented time. We are consulting regularly with colleagues at other medical schools, AAMC and LCME, about how to adapt our curriculum in this rapidly changing landscape. We can assure you that Upstate is not alone – all medical schools are facing the same obstacles due to the many restrictions, closures, and cancellations now in place.

We've been communicating with individual classes as issues arise, and will continue to do that, but I want to share some general updates.

MS1s – All instruction is being done online and I hear that things are going well so far. Kudos to Drs. Szyjkowski and Duncan! Colleen is working on arranging secure, remote testing for unit exams.

MS2s – The optional Pathology exam is today. The optional Micro/Immuno exam is planned for Friday but we are discussing cancelling it due to the escalating concern for student, faculty, and staff safety. We will send an update about that exam shortly. Colleen also will be contacting individual students about plans for makeups and remediations. NBME testing centers have closed for a month, which may cause delays for Step 1. We are working on adjusting the start of MS3 if needed.

MS3s – Students have been removed from patient contact on clinical rotations. Clerkship leadership teams are revising requirements and developing alternative learning experiences. We are in contact with other schools and LCME. Med schools, ERAS, and residency programs across the country likely all will have to adjust schedules and expectations.

MS4s – The registrar's office is reviewing every student's record and contacting any student whose graduation requirements do not yet appear to be complete. Where necessary, we will work with students to develop electives that can be completed given the current clinical constraints. Student Affairs is planning a virtual Match Day ceremony. Graduation plans currently are unchanged.

Dean White from Student Affairs wants you to know that "Just because [their] doors are closed, doesn't mean [they] aren't open!"

Dean White and Lori Ferguson are available via email. Dean White can arrange to meet you virtually if you wish.

You've received emails from Mary Ann Grandinetta in Academic Support and from Student Counseling. Both are available by email and can make virtual appointments.

Registrar and Campus Activities staff are working remotely and will continue to assist you.

Financial Aid staff are working remotely and have set up live chats.

Disability Services: Registered students can contact Katie Daley for assistance.

CSTEP students: See emails from Steven Contreras.

Multicultural Affairs and Student Inclusion: Nakeia Chambers is working remotely and ready to help in any way she can.

Geneva Tower residents: hall remains open and staffed.

The Upstate library is closing at the end of business today. Destiny USA and other malls in Onondaga County are closing as of 5 pm. Broome County has a curfew in place – no non-essential travel from 10 pm to 5 am. Authorities across the state are asking everyone to avoid large gatherings.

Again, we will communicate with you regularly. In addition to your medical education, we care about your safety and wellbeing. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any COM faculty or staff with questions or concerns.

Dr. Lesperance

Interim Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education