

### **3-16-20 Evening Update**

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

In these difficult days, with information coming into the office on an hourly basis, I am sharing with you additional changes that are being made to our procedures for your protection.

I realize these are very stressful times for all of you and your families. I believe we need to remind everyone to take all personal precautions as recommended over the past weeks, including washing your hands often, getting enough rest and eating well. We recommend “social distancing” and limiting all groups to a maximum of ten individuals.

We have taken most of our classes online and we are encouraging all students to their assignments and work seriously. We ask that you refrain from studying in groups of more than 10 students. Remember that Midwestern University is committed to making you a successful health care provider that will someday look back at this health care crisis and reflect on the learning experience.

#### Clinical Rotations

- Many of our hospital partners have notified Midwestern University that our Osteopathic Medical Students and some of our Physician Assistant Students are being asked to leave their clinical sites. Our hospital partners are putting all efforts toward caring for patients. The State Departments of Public Health have notified us that the shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and hospitals are limiting visitors and all personnel that are not a full time staff member.
- Therefore, all Osteopathic Medical Students and some Physician Assistant Students do not have clinical hospital rotations from March 17, 2020 until March 30, 2020.
- We will offer students on cancelled clinical rotations online classes. Online materials are currently being prepared.
- Students in Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant, Occupational Therapy, Clinical Psychology, Podiatry, Optometry, Dental, Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine whose clinical sites have not closed to student rotations, should continue to train at the sites, as long as they are comfortable with it being a low risk location.
- If you are concerned about your clinical site, please contact your Academic Dean or Program Director.

#### Exams and Testing

- All exams will now be online. We have been able to develop software used in our testing center to an online system.
- Students need to take every exam with integrity and honesty. You are going to be a health care professional and you need the knowledge and ability to treat the patient and understand the materials being tested. The faculty and staff are trusting you to be honest and ethical on all exams.
- Reports of inappropriate behavior will be acted upon.
- Online exams may have an active monitoring program running, therefore students are encouraged to take the process and exams seriously.

### Special Events

- In following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, all special events, such as Bridging Ceremonies, Student Award Events, Open Houses, Easter Fest and the Kenneth A. Suarez Research Days are cancelled. Academic and education sessions are exempt from the special events but must be limited to no more than 10 people until May 11, 2020.
- At this time all graduation events follow the imposed eight week guideline implemented by the CDC and they are not being cancelled. However, as this fluid situation evolves, we need to keep this as an ongoing discussion item. The news this evening indicated that the prior date of May 11, 2020 could be extended until summer.
- International and domestic travel are being discouraged.

### Facilities

- Our cafeterias remain open and prepackaged items will be available. We will be selling hot meals on paper products that are 100% disposable. We have removed salad bars but have prepackaged salads available.
- All faculty, staff and students entering any of our Clinics must be asked health questions and have a temperature check prior to entering the buildings. Patients will continue to be carefully screened prior to any emergency or critical care administered.
- The Wellness and Recreation Centers will open at 6:00 A.M. and the Downers Grove Center will close at 8:00 P.M. and Glendale at 9:00 P.M.

We are all in this together. I am committed to supporting the health and welfare of our community. I hope these updates provide you assurance that we are looking out for your welfare.

Dr. G.