

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students,

You are invited! Tomorrow is Midwestern University Commencement Day for all of our colleges and graduates. It is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating health care professionals with special thanks and encouragement as they begin the next chapter in their careers.

As all of us know, this 2020 Commencement Day is very different than any other in the history of Midwestern University, as it will be a virtual presentation of our ceremony. Faculty and staff throughout the university can view the college events. The Commencement Videos will be available tomorrow, Friday, May 22, 2020 at 8:00 A.M., Arizona (PDT) and 10:00 A.M., Illinois (CDT). They can be found on the Midwestern University Home Page at <http://online.midwestern.edu/public/graduationlinks.cgi>, over the next two weeks.

I hope as you view the Commencement Videos you see graduating students who bring a smile to your face as you reflect fondly on the class of 2020. To the faculty who brought their passion of science and learning to this class, thank you. To the many staff that helped them with securing rotations, clinic experiences, student clubs, financial aid or counseled them through difficult as well as happy times, thank you.

The COVID-19 Response Team met today, Thursday, May 21, 2020, and established clear and concise dates for our clinical operations to transition additional patients, faculty, staff and students to our facilities. Remember our clinics have never closed; we remain open to care for all emergency patients. This gradual increase in numbers is based on clear plans for social distancing and an adequate inventory of Personal Protective Equipment.

Announcements

- Actual hours of operation for each clinic will be provided to all faculty, staff and students by their Academic Dean or Clinic Management. The hours of operation will not be the same as prior to COVID-19.
- Students, faculty and staff will be contacted about their return dates, new schedules, and ability to return to campus.
- Our patient volume has been carefully planned to assure careful health screening of patients prior to them being registered and treated. This includes a health questionnaire and temperature check.
- Faculty, staff and students will also complete a health questionnaire and must be fever-free to enter any clinic.
- Physical spaces are being modified; seating in the lobbies will be limited, with signage noting where a patient can sit, and how many can enter an elevator at one time.

Tentative Target Dates

- Glendale Campus

- Multispecialty Clinic, will continue offering telemedicine services but increase patient visits May 26, 2020
- Eye Institute, June 1, 2020
- Dental Institute, June 1, 2020
- Therapy Institute, June 1, 2020
- Companion Animal Clinic, June 1, 2020
- Equine and Bovine Center, June 1, 2020
- Diagnostic Pathology Center, June 1, 2020

- Downers Grove Campus
 - Family Medicine and OMM Clinics, continue offering telemedicine but increase patient visits May 26, 2020
 - Eye Institute, June 1, 2020
 - Dental Institute, June 8, 2020
 - Physical Therapy Institute, June 1, 2020

I hope you join me tomorrow in congratulating our 2020 graduates. While it was not the graduation ceremony they had all planned on, it is my hope that their families, friends and classmates share with each graduate their pride and joy in all their accomplishments. Their journey at Midwestern may be coming to an end for so many of these students, but we hope the road ahead is both exhilarating and fulfilling for them. Congratulations Class of 2020. You make us proud.

Be well.

Dr. G.