

## From the Office of the Dean

December 23, 2020

Dear Faculty and Staff (Students and Residents):

All faculty/staff/students/residents that are returning to One Kneeland St. after January 4<sup>th</sup> for resumption of educational and clinical activities are **REQUIRED TO:-**

Have 2 tests done 3-4 days apart at a Tufts university testing site (Medford/Boston/SFA or Grafton with prior permission) during the week of January 4-8, 2021 and quarantine between these tests. Tests done outside of these Tufts testing centers will not suffice.

**IN ADDITION:**

**D23/D24/IS23** students will be required to have 2 tests done 3-4 days apart during the week of January 11-15 before reverting to a 1X test per week schedule.

**NOTE:** These testing schedules are subject to change pending the national/local environment. Please do pay attention to any updates/reminders that are sent out over the winter break.

**NOTES OF APPRECIATION**

Please join us in congratulating **Dr. Kanchan Ganda** for achieving Emeritus status as she “steps down” December 31, 2020. I know she will continue to support TUSDM in several ways moving forward!

**Dr. Kanchan Ganda**, is a physician who has been faculty at Tufts for 41 years. She started as a Clinical Instructor in 1980, becoming an Assistant Professor in 1991, Associate Professor in 1995, and reaching the rank of full Professor in 2002. She has been a Medical Consultant and the Head of the Division of Medicine at Tufts School of Dental Medicine since 1991. Over the years she has received numerous awards and recognitions, among them: Deans’ Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1995, 2006, 2010 and 2012; selected as hooder for the classes of 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017; and Outstanding Faculty Award from Tufts University in 1999. In 2018, she received the Dean’s Sesquicentennial Faculty Award for outstanding spirit, integrity, achievement, and longstanding commitment to Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Ganda has directed a number of courses and implemented several programs at the school and university level. She created a program and has received funding over multiple years to support Dental outreach program to survivors of domestic violence and as well as patients with HIV/AIDS. She has been an invited speaker providing CE on managing of medical emergencies and management of medically complex patients. She has provided service to the school running the CPR program, infection control protocols, training of faculty and students on how to manage medical emergencies. Dr. Ganda’s impact over her many years of service as faculty member at TUSDM has greatly impacted the dental curriculum. The strong medicine component of the curriculum highlights the role of dentists in the management of patients’ health. This education element that started at TUSDM years before it became part of the lexicon in dental education is her legacy.

Please also wish **Dr. Larry Barron** well for all his years of service; Dr. Barron taught me operative dentistry many moons ago!

**Dr. Larry Barron** is a D74 graduate of TUSDM who has been teaching Operative Dentistry since 1979, when he received a faculty appointment at Harvard School of Dental Medicine. He joined the faculty at TUSDM in 2005 following his retirement after serving at the VA for almost 26 years. Dr. Barron plans to spend more time with his wife, and he looks forward to reuniting with friends, his children and grandchildren after the pandemic subsides.

## VACCINATION UPDATES

Many in our community have expressed interest in when TUSDM faculty, staff, residents and students might be “eligible” to receive a vaccine.

The oral healthcare workforce have been identified across the country (CDC-IMAGE 1) and in Massachusetts (MA Department of Public Health-IMAGE 2) to be in one of the first phases of deployment (as healthcare worker doing non-COVID facing care). The Massachusetts Dental Society) is also broadcasting updates as they become available.

### IMAGE 1. CDC Guidelines

## The Importance of COVID-19 Vaccination for Healthcare Personnel

Updated Dec. 18, 2020 Languages Print



Based on [recommendations](#) from the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#), an independent panel of medical and public health experts, [CDC recommends healthcare personnel be among those offered the first doses of COVID-19 vaccines](#). Healthcare personnel include all paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials.

This recommendation pertains to paid and unpaid healthcare personnel working in a variety of healthcare settings—for example, acute care facilities, long-term acute care facilities, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes and assisted living facilities, home health care, mobile clinics, and outpatient facilities, such as dialysis centers and physicians' offices.

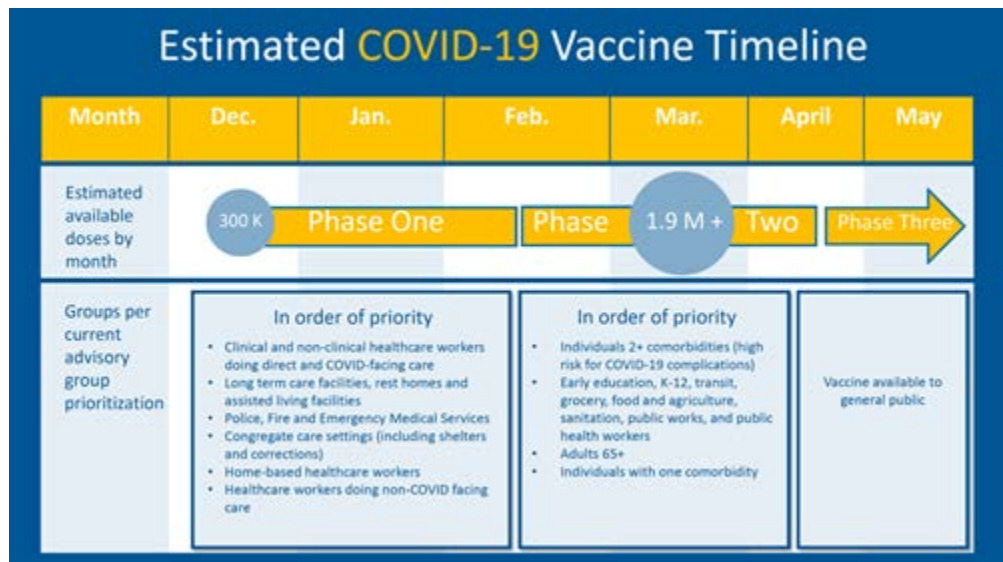
### Examples of healthcare personnel include:

- Emergency medical service personnel
- Nurses and nursing assistants
- Physicians
- Technicians
- Therapists
- Dentists
- Dental hygienists and assistants
- Phlebotomists
- Pharmacists
- Students and trainees
- Contractual staff
- Dietary and food services staff
- Environmental services staff
- Administrative staff

Learn more about who is included under the broad term [“healthcare personnel.”](#)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/hcp.html>

### IMAGE 2. Massachusetts Department of Public Health Guidelines



### IMAGE 3. Massachusetts Dental Society Information

Estimated Available Doses by Month	Phase 1 (300K)	Phase 2 (1.9M-plus)	Phase 3
Groups per Current Advisory Group Prioritization	<p><b>In order of priority:</b> Clinical and non-clinical health care workers doing direct and COVID-facing care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Long-term-care facilities, rest homes, and assisted living facilities</li><li>• Police, fire, and emergency medical services</li><li>• Congregate care settings (including shelters and corrections)</li><li>• Home-based health care workers</li><li>• Health care workers doing non-COVID-facing care</li></ul>	<p><b>In order of priority:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Individuals with two-plus comorbidities (high risk for COVID-19 complications)</li><li>• Early education, K-12, transit, grocery, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works, and public health workers</li><li>• Adults 65-plus</li><li>• Individuals with one comorbidity</li></ul>	Vaccine available to the general public.

[HTTPS://WWW.MASSDENTAL.ORG/MEMBER-RESOURCES/PRACTICE-Management/Coronavirus/COVID19-Vaccine-Information](https://www.massdental.org/members-resources/practice-management/coronavirus/covid19-vaccine-information)

### National and Local Efforts for access to vaccinations

The American Dental Association, the American Dental Education Association, and Massachusetts Dental Society continue to lobby for our community to have access to the vaccine as per national/local priorities. Letters have been submitted to the Governor and Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The Deans of the 3 local dental schools have also submitted letters through our universities to highlight the uniqueness of our dental care providers in our schools.

### Tufts University/Tufts University School of Dental Medicine Plans

The University and Dental School are working with the state and local organizations/hospitals to submit information about our community so that we will receive vaccinations at the appropriate time. It is anticipated we might have to prioritize our needs based on several variables (for example those that are currently essential to our clinical/educational services, involvement in direct/indirect patient care, involvement in preclinical versus didactic teaching, other medical risk factors, etc). Some practitioners who are in practice may also have access to vaccinations based on other personal circumstances (e.g., a hospital-based appointment, other activities that allow quicker access to care, etc.). It is unclear at this time if people will be required to receive a vaccine.

As more information becomes available, we will make sure to communicate the plans.

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season, and a restful, well-deserved break. I know 2021 will be kinder to all of us!

Dean Nadeem Karimbux

**Office of the Dean**  
Tufts University School of Dental Medicine  
One Kneeland St., 15th Floor  
Boston, MA 02111  
<http://dental.tufts.edu>