

From the Office of the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to update you on developments concerning COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

On 3/5/20 you received the University-wide message concerning "Travel Guidance Related to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)". Please pay close attention to these guidelines.

There are some additional items specific to TUSDM concerning travel schedules and clinical operations:

Travel schedules this Spring pertinent to the Dental School.

1. Travel to Meetings

There are several **National Meetings scheduled in March/April**. Some meetings have been cancelled by the organizers (Academy of Osseointegration, Angle Society), others have decided to hold their meetings.

For those that are travelling to meetings please pay particular attention to the University guidelines. Make sure you are documenting travel as requested.

Meeting organizers are also posting guidelines regarding travel/accommodations/good prevention practice. Stay informed of any changes in the guidelines during your travels. **It is still possible that meetings scheduled in the coming weeks will be cancelled/travel plans will be modified.**

You might select not to travel to meetings based on your own personal situations (risk assessment, possibility of 2-week self-quarantine, etc.). If you choose NOT to travel to meetings, please cancel transportation/accommodations and let your supervisor/travel sponsor know of circumstances so that reimbursements/payments can be processed.

2. Spring Break Travel/Vacation travel

For Spring Break travel pay attention to the University guidelines.

If the status of the sites you are visiting changes during your travel pay close attention to guidelines regarding medical check-ups/quarantines. If you develop signs/symptoms of the flu please place yourself on a 2-3 week self-quarantine to insure the safety of our patients. Inform supervisors/student affairs.

Clinic/Didactic Updates

As a clinician/student/faculty/staff member:

If you have travelled to [CDC Level 3 travel warning for COVID-19](#) (China, South Korea, Iran, and Italy) please do not return to school/clinics until a two-week self-quarantine period is over. Inform your supervisor/Student Affairs

Stay home if sick. If you have signs and symptoms of the flu (cough, cold, fever, aches, rash) please do not return to school/clinics until a two-week self-quarantine period is over. Seek medical care if your symptoms do not improve/become acute. Inform your supervisor/Student Affairs

Please follow all best practices regarding infection control, universal precautions and good hand hygiene practice.

For patients in the clinics

1. Ask patients if they have travelled outside of the US recently. If they have travelled to [CDC Level 3 travel warning for COVID-19](#) (China, South Korea, Iran, and Italy) recently make sure they have followed the 2 week self-quarantine guideline. If they have not followed the protocol, inform them that they can return for care until after the two-week period is complete. If their dental care is acute (pain, infection) inform your supervisor/faculty so that the case can be managed appropriately.
2. Ask patients if they have a cough, cold, fever or rash. If they do, inform them that they can return for care after a two-week period is complete. If their care is acute (pain, infection) inform your supervisor/faculty so that the case can be managed appropriately.
3. Document each case appropriately in the Electronic Health Record and inform Dean Hanlon of any of the incidents where patient care is disrupted for the reasons above (**insure privacy in all cases-do not discuss cases other than with immediate care-providers**)

We will be sending/posting a message to patients with the following messaging-please use this current script if asked about protocols/procedures at TUSDM:

“Dear Patients of TUSDM,

We recognize the situation with COVID-19 (coronavirus) is changing day-to-day.

Tufts University and the Tufts University School of Dental Medicine are adhering to University and CDC guidelines regarding the prevention and management of the spread of the virus.

We are advising our patients who have travelled outside of the United States recently to disclose areas of travel to our front desk/care providers, so that we can advise accordingly based on CDC and Tufts University guidelines.

We are asking our patients that have any symptoms of the flu (cough, cold, body aches, rash) to please stay away from our clinics until they have been symptom-free for a two-week period.

We have also posted signage around our clinics on how you can help prevent/stop the spread of germs.

If you have more immediate questions/concerns, please ask your primary care providers. We will provide updates as the situation is quite dynamic. We thank you for your attention to this healthcare challenge”.

As we **work together** through this health care crisis, I ask that everyone continue to espouse our best values:

Do not discriminate.

Respect one another’s privacy.

Be as objective as you can based on policies procedures and guidelines.

I thank you for your attention and vigilance.

Sincerely,

Dean Nadeem Karimbux, DMD, MMSc