

From the Office of the Dean

[Video Message From The Dean](#)

Dear Colleagues,

I hope everyone is staying well and learning, adapting, and adopting to our changing personal, family, and work environments.

[The university](#) and the school of dental medicine have moved as quickly as possible to take on the responsibility of containing the current pandemic-especially when it comes to helping our medical colleagues.

We have all moved to support our educational programs through distance education platforms. Our research colleagues (basic science and clinical) are ramping down their activities. Our faculty and staff have moved to work remotely, except for those that continue to provide support for essential services.

We as a profession (oral health care providers, dental and allied education Institutes, community health centers, residencies and hospitals) continue to monitor our state and national guidelines. Dental clinical practices are being asked to limit services to emergency/urgent care with precautions being taken to screen patients and to limit services.

In recent days the [Massachusetts Department of Health](#), the [Massachusetts Dental Society](#), and the [American Dental Association](#) have set a deadline of April 6 for these limited practices.

Based on all the information we have received, we have decided to modify our practices in the following ways:

CLINICAL OPERATIONS

I have decided based on the input of our leadership team to extend the closure all of our clinical operations to April 10th, 2020.

We have leadership teams looking at all the possible scenarios that would allow resumption of services.

I know how concerning this continues to be for all that provide care for our patients. It is a challenge being played out across the country in all dental practices and in all dental education institutes (dental schools, allied programs, residencies, hospitals). The Deans of all dental schools are working with the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), our local dental boards of registration and licensure bodies to help manage the situation for our students.

PLAN OF ACTION.

1. Patient Cancellations. (March 29-April 10)

Notification to patients.

Students/Residents:

1. Students and residents as primary care providers should call all patients that are scheduled during the extended time period (through April 13) and use the attached script.

2. Please update **all of your active patients** about the context/timing of these decisions.
3. If patients are asking you any questions that you cannot answer, please consult with your PC/Program Directors.

Your patients might also receive e-mails/texts/phone calls about the closure from TUSDM. Updates will be posted to our main web-site page. <https://dental.tufts.edu>

Clinics where students/residents are not primary care providers (recare, Faculty Group Practice etc):

Please work with Direct Clinical Supervisors/Chairs/Practice Managers to cancel patients.

2. Continuity of care-emergencies.

Our emergency clinic will remain open on a limited basis for emergency care during this period. Continuity is dependent on state/local guidelines.

EXTERNAL CLINICAL ACTIVITIES

External rotations and externships etc will be cancelled for the period through April 10, 2020. Our Academic Affairs Team/Dean Nehring/Dr. Yered will inform site directors of this change. Please contact them for any issues that arise.

TDF will receive notification as to their status.

The impact of this decision on student clinical progress towards graduation will also be monitored and modified.

ADMINISTRATIVE /RESEARCH /ACADEMIC OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMING will continue as previously communicated.

FACULTY/STAFF WORKING REMOTELY. For faculty/staff that do not have access to computers or laptops from home, please contact your immediate supervisors, and arrangements will be made based on priority of tasks to be performed. Please be available to your supervisors as instructed (eg. Use of technologies like jabber, being logged into axiUm etc).

TRAVEL GUIDELINES

During this extended period of clinical inactivity please stay up to date with the [University Travel Guidelines](#) including the Local and National restrictions on travel.

We will continue to update and give you critical information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

Nadeem Karimbux, DMD, MMSc
Dean, Professor Periodontology