

From the Office of the Dean

[Video Message From The Dean](#)**COVID-19 UPDATE: PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL ISSUES FAQ. DEANS REFLECTION.**

Dear Colleagues,

Many of you are settling into new routines and new patterns of work. I also know that we all worry about and stress about how to manage any illness that is similar to or perhaps indicative of COVID-19 (for yourselves and your families and friends).

Tufts University has put together a “Frequently Asked Questions” section about “Public Health & Medical Issues FAQ” <https://coronavirus.tufts.edu/health-and-medical/> that provides guidance about COVID-19.

Tufts University School of Dental Medicine has also convened a **TUSDM COVID-19 Response Team** (coordinated by Dean Kasberg and Dr. M. Rosenberg) that has been tasked with helping any member of our community who has tested positive for COVID-19 or communicating with people that might have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive member of our community (faculty, staff, student, patients).

If you are identified as being COVID-19 Positive, we ask you to follow the protocol below:

Please email [Robert.Kasberg@tufts.edu](mailto:Robert.Kasberg@tufts.edu), [morton.rosenberg@tufts.edu](mailto:morton.rosenberg@tufts.edu) of the TUSDM COVID-19 Response Team **OR** email [covid19@tufts.edu](mailto:covid19@tufts.edu) so that we can respond appropriately.

Working with the University/Department of Public Health and respecting all confidentiality, the TUSDM COVID-19 Response Team will work to inform others that may have been exposed to COVID-19 through direct contact. This will allow all parties to manage their individual health concerns and their well-being.

I thank you for your attention to this as we all strive to help one another during this public health crisis.

**DEAN’S REFLECTIONS: “HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL”**

It is hard to believe that we have just ended our first week in a new “world.” It has been a long week.

Despite all the changes, despite all the challenges, somewhere along the line the saying “**Hope springs eternal**” popped into my mind.

Maybe it was when I was up at night, my mind racing about things we had to get done.

Maybe it was during an anxious thought about the health of my family, my community.

Maybe it was in the rush of the new cycle of news, the emails, the texts, the “zoom” meetings.

Maybe it wasn’t just one moment that brought the saying to mind.

Maybe it was a culmination of events:

-The first days of seeing faculty, staff, students at our reception area and in our emergency clinic. The new morning “huddle” being led by Dr. Patrick McGarry. Here to help patients in pain or needing post-operative care. Our clinical services limited but continuing in a small but meaningful way.

-The first days of seeing course directors and other faculty members and staff converting instantaneously to online education, piloting remote exams, learning how connect with students off-site.

-The class leadership groups realizing the unprecedented times we are in and working with school leadership to manage all their concerns, their needs. Our students — have been patient, understanding, concerned — while working with us and with one another.

-The few patients who showed up each day, eager to be seen, relieved that in some small way we were there to care for them.

-The Provosts Council at the University meeting virtually each day with all the Deans, talking about their challenges and how to continue to provide services for their faculty, their staff, their students. Each school unique in its own ways, with its own challenges and solutions.

-Teams from each department, each division (Clinical Affairs, Academic Affairs, Research, Billing, Sterilization etc.) organizing, adopting, adapting. Repeating the cycle with every new challenge.

-The President of the University expressing his thoughts in a *Boston Globe* piece about how Tufts and other Institutes of Higher Education can help manage the COVID-19 crisis. “Tufts is prepared to house patients during the coronavirus outbreak, other colleges and universities should too:”

[https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/03/18/opinion/higher-educations-role-fighting-covid-19/.](https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/03/18/opinion/higher-educations-role-fighting-covid-19/)

-The Council of Deans (a group composed of all Deans from the North American schools that convene through the American Dental Education Association) meeting virtually to talk about how we can all lobby state and national bodies in assisting our schools, and assisting our students to be able to progress towards graduation.

Maybe it was being a part of or witnessing these groups mobilizing, discussing, solving, above the “noise,” being objective, not knowing all the answers...

OR, maybe it was simply:

-Hearing that the vernal equinox on March 19<sup>th</sup> was the earliest it has been in the US in 124 years. A new season full of fresh starts.

-Seeing the sun rise in all its glory with hues of pink, red and orange.

-Breathing in fresh air and seeing people (mothers, fathers, and children) out (keeping distance!) in the Arnold Arboretum this weekend.

-Witnessing the new beginnings-birds chirping in the early morning, flowers breaking through the soil, buds appearing on trees.

Yes indeed-**Hope springs eternal.**

Stay safe and well.

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Dean

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