

Townhall June 8, 2020

Thank you and gratitude to the SNMA students who organized a powerful and effective protest in Durham over the weekend to call attention to racism as public health crisis, to say their names, to learn their stories, and to demand justice. I am honored to call you colleagues.

We would be glad to broaden topics discussed during the townhalls beyond COVID. As we all learn to better deal with COVID and have adjusted instructions accordingly, there will likely be fewer COVID related questions for the townhall. If there is student interest in continuing the townhalls, I would be glad to broaden the topics that we discuss. Feel free to submit questions or suggestions on any topic in the Qualtrics form in advance or during the townhalls

General:

I think it would be useful to have training for all students about how to handle racist remarks made by patients. I think this could be a useful part of PCC as we are in the hospital for bedside teaching before we go onto the wards. Knowing how to respectfully diffuse a situation while also providing education to the patient would be a great way to take charge of ending systemic racism in healthcare that each student can individually have a part in.

Giving students the language to speak up is a really important part of medical school training and we are looking to strengthen ally-ship training in multiple settings. Your suggestion for changes in PCC is a good one and we will pursue that as one option. Thank you for the suggestion.

I'm hoping for some clarification regarding travel for the week we have off in June. Based on the list of locations with travel restrictions, it looks like there are separate restrictions for travel as medical students vs travel as a healthcare provider (assuming that's what HCP stands for). Does that mean we can travel to somewhere like DC but cannot travel to New York, or does travel to all of these locations listed apply to us?

Over the weekend, the policy for travel were changed by UNC Health. I believe this change is consistent with policies at other health systems as well. The information has been updated on our COVID19 website. <https://www.med.unc.edu/md/medical-student-covid-19-info/> . It no longer contains specific geographic restrictions for out of state travel. It also addressed participating in mass gatherings for personal reasons. It continues to prohibit out of state travel of business reasons. Here are key excerpts:

Attending/participating in mass gatherings

Co-workers must adhere to the [Extended Use Mask Guidance](#) and continuous self-monitoring with daily wellness checks.

If you become symptomatic (cough, fever $\geq 100.0^{\circ}$ F, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, GI symptoms, sore throat, shaking chills), DO NOT come to work and call your supervisor and Employee/ Occupational Health.

Individuals, including students, traveling individually outside the state of North Carolina and returning to a UNC Health facility for business or educational purposes.

These individuals must adhere to the [Extended Use Mask Guidance](#) and continuous self-monitoring with daily wellness checks.

If the individual becomes symptomatic (cough, fever $\geq 100.0^{\circ}\text{F}$, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, GI symptoms, sore throat, shaking chills), they MUST NOT enter a UNC Health facility or MUST leave the facility immediately.

If we attended one of the larger protests do we need to get COVID19 tested before resuming patient care? Thanks!

There is not need to get COVID testing simply because you attended a protest. If you had known contact with a person who was COVID positive and you were not wearing a mask and eye protection, please call Campus Health. Here is further information about participation in protests:

We are strongly supportive of your right to protest and speak up on these important issues.

In fact, the Instrument of Student Judicial Governance (wherein the Code of Conduct is located) expressly supports peaceful protest or other expressive activities. Appendix D of that document provides that “[a]ll members of the University community shall have the right of peaceful protest.” (Instrument, Appendix D, Section III.C) If there is other attendant behavior (e.g., damage/destruction of property, physical assault, etc.) beyond protected expression, then such conduct may be addressed by the disciplinary process. However, the overwhelmingly majority of protest activity that occurs on and in the vicinity of campus is peaceful and would not trigger disciplinary action even if law enforcement makes an arrest.

The campus disciplinary process is independent of the legal system and law enforcement. Any reported conduct by a student is evaluated on its individual merits and an independent decision is made on whether there is a reasonable basis to conclude the alleged conduct violates a provision of the Campus Code of Conduct. As such, an arrest by either campus or community law enforcement does not automatically result in a disciplinary process nor is an arrest in and of itself a basis for disciplinary action.

While the University does not cover legal costs for students, faculty or staff arising from protest activities, [Carolina Student Legal Services](#) may be available to help students.

Please use appropriate public health measures in the current COVID19 pandemic. Please wear masks at all times and keep physical distance of 6 feet if at all possible.

Would yall be able to provide an update regarding CS and CK? feel like there has been a lot of changes over the past week, especially with them stating that event testing at medschools will have almost 80 less questions.

Step 2 CS has formally been cancelled by the NBME for the next 12-18 months. Residency programs are aware of this change for the upcoming interviews. We will use this opportunity to develop CPX further to demonstrate clinical skills proficiency of our students.

There continues to be confusion around Step 1 and Step 2 CK testing. It continues to be difficult to schedule at Prometric Centers. We at UNC have applied to become a testing center here but have not heard back from the NBME

Foundation Phase

Any updates on what foundation phase will look like in the fall? (will small groups be in person? PCC?)

The plan below was discussed at Foundation Phase meeting last week and will be brought to education committee in two weeks for formal approval. It will likely be approved without further significant changes:

NOTE: The SOM is requesting from the Provost the ability to extend instruction beyond November 18. All instruction after November 18, **if allowed**, will be remote. We anticipate that we will get this approval

	August 3 – November 18 (with distancing and mask usage)	November 23 – December 18
<p>Medical Science</p> <p>*Last year’s lecture captures, new recordings via lecture capture, or modules may be used on occasion, but live sessions are encouraged as they promote community.</p>	<p>Large groups: Zoom (live)*</p> <p>Small groups: Zoom (live)</p> <p>Microbiology laboratories: At home with kits; Zoom debriefs and virtual exercises</p> <p>Anatomy laboratories: In-person/face-to-face but in more sections with smaller groups</p> <p>Examinations: Remote (both ExamSoft and NBME)</p> <p>Post-exam reviews: [Being discussed]</p>	<p>Large groups: Zoom (live)*</p> <p>Small groups: Zoom (live)</p> <p>Microbiology laboratories: None will occur.</p> <p>Anatomy laboratories: None will occur.</p> <p>Examinations: Remote (both ExamSoft and NBME)</p> <p>Post-exam reviews: [Being discussed]</p>
<p>Social and Health Systems</p>	<p>Seminars: Remote</p>	<p>Seminars: Remote</p>

<p>Patient Centered Care</p>	<p>Tutor groups: In-person/face-to-face</p> <p>Clinical Week: Clinical Week will be maintained, but students will likely not travel to statewide locations. They will instead be at UNC Hospitals or will receive physical examination instruction from faculty.</p>	<p>Tutor groups: Remote</p>
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Rationale for a majority of instruction being remote:

- Allows for a decision to be made and for planning to occur now without waiting on further direction from main campus
- Eliminates need to search for additional classrooms
- Eliminates unpredictable interactions in hallways, restrooms, elevators, and thresholds
- Allows faculty and students at higher risk to be safe
- Allows for a more predictable and reliable outcome (e.g., Medical Science small groups)