

## A Message from Dr. Bill Powderly and the Institute for Public Health



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As we all continue to navigate today's unprecedented circumstances, the staff and I hope you are in good health and finding calm amidst what may feel like chaos. We are experiencing this "new environment" with you.

Institute scholars, who are faculty in the Washington University Division of Infectious Diseases, under my leadership as co-director of the Division, have played a leading role in the local response to COVID-19. From advising the Chancellor's office on the University's response to working with city, county and state public health officials to inform the local medical response to COVID-19, they have been actively engaged since the epidemic first arrived in the United States. Through their work at the Medical School with our BJC partners and hospital leadership, we have helped inform clinical practice today that will impact the future. It is only through the collaboration of us all that we can realize the end of this unprecedented period in time.

The Institute team has set up home workstations to continue to stay connected and productive in addressing complex public health issues including COVID-19 (Coronavirus). We are grateful for the opportunity to update you on current activities and point you to available resources.

The Institute has created a [comprehensive page of resources](#) regarding CDC, St. Louis City and County, Washington University, and BJC responses to the Coronavirus.

While new vaccines and health measures are being developed, it is equally important to **understand the impact of COVID-19 on individuals and communities**. The Institute seeks to fund research proposals that focus on social and policy countermeasures in health to mitigate the spread and negative impact of the virus. To this end, we recently issued a "Call for Proposals" to Institute Faculty Scholars. [Read more.](#)

The [Center for Community Health Partnership and Research](#) is working with St. Louis City Department of Health, Immigrant Service Providers Network, and BJC case management to help protect the most vulnerable in our community.

The [Public Health Data and Training Center](#) is working with multidisciplinary faculty and regional partners (including the Regional Data Alliance, Health Departments, and Violence Prevention Commission) to determine what COVID-19 data can be mobilized, compiled and shared to support local efforts. Clinical and social data can be mapped and tracked over time.

In order to inform policymakers during this crisis, the [Center for Dissemination and Implementation](#) is developing a [model](#) of the COVID-19 pandemic with collaborators. It will assess universal transmission dynamics in certain contexts and use the assessment to help inform policymakers.

The [Center for Health Economics and Policy](#) is working with the Center for Dissemination and Implementation and the Center for Public Health Data and Training to create local and national models for COVID-19 spread. The goal is to develop usable tools for capacity and response planning with local and regional health systems as well as state partners.

The [Global Health Center](#) is busy working with community partners in Guatemala to gauge the impact of the Coronavirus on patients who travel from remote areas to receive cancer treatment. Look for future blogs from the WashU Global Health Student Advisory Committee on their personal experiences during the Coronavirus outbreak.

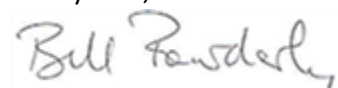
How does the Coronavirus impact detained or encamped immigrants, when basic measures like social distancing or hand-washing are extremely difficult to achieve? What is the impact on individuals at risk of intimate partner violence here in St. Louis for whom sheltering in place can be fatal? These are concerns being addressed by the [Center for Human Rights, Gender and Migration](#).

The [Harvey A. Friedman Center for Aging](#) is compiling information regarding the impact of the Coronavirus on older adults including topics such as recovery from COVID-19: the impact/fall-out on retirement savings and employment, and the long-term effects of isolation on health. Watch our website for [blogs](#) and our newsletters for links to these topics.

This is just a snapshot highlighting the ongoing work and plans by our centers and initiatives. Please continue to visit our website, read our newsletters, and watch Twitter and Facebook for continuous updates.

As we send you well wishes and support, we will continue to work our way through this evolving global situation. We appreciate your communication and continued support in the face of this "new reality" and we look forward to better days ahead.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Fawcett". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.