General Information

Safe Return to Campus
As we prepare for the arrival of the Part 1 students on campus, we thought it would be helpful for you all to know that we have been thinking a lot about the steps necessary to keep you safe. We have worked closely with the University and Medical Center leadership to ensure that we are following all guidelines for the return to instruction and student safety. College of Medicine faculty and staff will be adhering to the guidelines detailed in the Safe Campus & Scientific Advisory Subgroup Recommendations. These details include limits on class size, guidelines on physical distancing, use of personal protective equipment, and cleaning.

For the details of the principles guiding us, please see the University’s webpage: [https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu/about-transition-task-force](https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu/about-transition-task-force)

For up to date information about SARS-CoV2 and COVID-19, please see the Wexner Medical Center’s webpage: [https://wexnermedical.osu.edu/features/coronavirus/patient-care/symptoms-and-prevention](https://wexnermedical.osu.edu/features/coronavirus/patient-care/symptoms-and-prevention)

Upon your return, all Part 1 students will be provided a welcome kit with the following essentials (please stay tuned for information on when/how to pick yours up):

- A thermometer
- A pair of goggles
- Face masks

Additional face masks will be available for your use throughout the year. Please see the attached document entitled “Masking FAQ for Faculty and Staff” for details on how to safely reuse your masks.

Health Monitoring
All students are required to participate in daily temperature and symptom monitoring prior to reporting for any education, research, or clinical activities. The information is stored on a secure website, and can be accessed by the College of Medicine administration. Students are encouraged to take and record their temperature at home prior to coming to campus if possible. The website will display a green screen upon arrival, indicating that an approved temperature has been entered. Anyone with a 100.0 degree temperature or higher, either at home or upon arrival, should stay or go home and contact Dr. Lynn or the Dean on call for further instructions.

The Student Health Monitoring website can be accessed here [https://go.osu.edu/hsstudenttempcheck](https://go.osu.edu/hsstudenttempcheck) or on the main VITALS home page.

Illness or Exposure
Any student with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 exposure should stay or go home and contact Dr. Lynn or the Dean on call for further instructions. The Wexner Medical Center has published guidelines for employee exposures that serve as useful guidelines, but each situation will be reviewed and recommendations for return to instruction will be made based on the individual circumstances.

Testing
Students who desire to be tested for COVID-19 can call the COVID Call center at 614-293-4000, identify themselves as a medical student, and request testing. Non-urgent questions can be emailed to [Coronavirus@osumc.edu](mailto:Coronavirus@osumc.edu)

COVID-related absences
The College of Medicine and all of the academic programs are prepared to be as flexible as possible in that event that a student has a COVID-related absence. Students should contact the appropriate Academic Program Director for further instructions, and should submit an absence request via VITALs for recording keeping purposes. A plan for make-up and or extension of deadlines will be discussed as appropriate.

**Safety and Personal Protective Equipment**

Strict adherence to social distancing requirements and the use of mandatory personal protective equipment is the single most important thing students can do to prevent the spread of the Sars-Cov-2 virus in the educational and clinical setting. Students should not participate in the care or evaluation of any patient with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

- All students must wear a **procedure mask** in Medical Center and College of Medicine buildings. This includes the use of masks in common spaces, hallways, large classrooms, etc. These masks will be provided for all students by the Medical Center and College, so please do not plan to use personal cloth masks unless the supply of these procedure masks becomes limited.
- All students must also wear **eye protection** in all patient care areas or when in direct contact with standardized patients or peer teachers (this includes Longitudinal Practice, when in contact with standardized patients in Longitudinal Group, when practicing physical exam on peers, etc.).
  - All students will be provided one pair of goggles by the College of Medicine
  - Additional forms of eye protection can be purchased for personal use (see “Universal Masking and Eye Protection Education” for additional information)
  - Students should plan to have eye protection with them at all times as most clinical sites will NOT have this readily available (ex. Longitudinal Practice, Longitudinal Group, anatomy lab, and all assessments in Clinical Skills Center)
- Students working in the clinical environment should follow the most current recommendations and guidelines available for that site.

**Travel**

The College of Medicine follows University and state guidelines for current travel restrictions related to COVID-19. Students should check the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website for current restrictions prior to any travel outside of Ohio [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html) and should plan accordingly if quarantine upon return will be required.

It will be particularly important to consider travel restrictions before planning any trips outside of Ohio during vacation times such as the December break, any week-long vacation times or flex months for M4s.

Governor DeWine recently announced some travel restriction recommendations urging persons entering Ohio from states with infection rates currently above 15% (ID, NV, AZ, TX, MS, AL, GA, SC, FL and PR) to quarantine for 14 days. We are awaiting the medical center and university response to these recommendations to see if they will mandate required quarantine upon return to Ohio from states with high positive testing rates. However, for now, it is a recommendation so we would encourage students to consider this in their travel plans for the future and for Med 1s and 2s currently residing in these areas to return to Columbus in order to limit the amount of time missed should these become absolute restrictions.

Nationwide Children’s Hospital publishes internally developed travel guidelines and restrictions. These are typically updated every two weeks. Students scheduled to rotate at any NCH site should review these and should plan accordingly.
**Accommodations for high risk conditions**
Your safety is important to the College of Medicine, and some students may have situations which make COVID-19 more impactful. You or someone you live with may be more vulnerable if certain conditions as defined by the CDC are already present. If you would like to discuss potential accommodations, please contact your personal physician to discuss the need to modify your learning experiences. Based on this input, it may also be useful to contact the University Office of Disability Services: [https://slds.osu.edu/](https://slds.osu.edu/). Upon receipt of your request for accommodations, Dr. McCallister will be happy to review with you.

**Special circumstances**
The on-going COVID-19 pandemic has created unique and extenuating circumstances that may not be optimal for all students. At any time, if a student does not feel comfortable continuing in the current environment, they should reach out to Drs. Lynn or McCallister to discuss a temporary leave of absence.