

Dear Students,

We hope you know how proud and grateful we are to have each one of you as part of our medical school. We are grateful for the patience, care, kindness and altruism that you've expressed during this extraordinarily difficult time.

We also understand the frustration many of you feel about the impact this is having on your medical school experience, and fears regarding completing requirements for graduating on time. We have been and will continue to post information on the [Intranet](#) to respond to your email questions. We will continue to share updates via emails as well. The world we find ourselves in today with the COVID-19 pandemic is one that is changing moment-by-moment.

We continue to make decisions based on our desire and duty to keep our students safe, faculty and staff safe, our patients cared for and safe, and provide you the education necessary to help you learn and graduate on time. How we accomplish this looks much different now than it did a few weeks ago.

As we have seen the number of cases of verified COVID-19 cases increase daily across the WWAMI region and the country, local health systems, local and state health departments, and the local, state and federal government continue to institute measures and decrees to protect people and communities. All health systems across the country are implementing measures to preserve the personal protective equipment (PPE) they will need to care for those infected with the corona virus and others needing emergency services. Health systems across WWAMI are canceling elective surgeries and procedures, developing drive up testing and asking those 60 and older not to come to clinics. And today, the AAMC has issued guidelines for medical schools that **medical student clinical rotations should be paused immediately until at least March 31, 2020 to allow for the development of educational strategies and alternate clinical experiences, and ease the strain on finite PPE resources.**

The UW School of Medicine along with other medical schools will be working with the AAMC and the LCME to develop solutions to the challenges we face in helping you complete your education. Our leadership is currently working closely with the AAMC and other medical schools to develop creative solutions and relevant alternative clinical learning experiences that students can engage in now that don't involve direct patient contact. Please understand we are working as quickly and diligently as possible to keep your education moving forward. We want you to succeed, on time, and with the knowledge you need to become the best physician you can be.

The new guidelines from the AAMC can be found in the attached PDF, "Guidance on Student Clinical Participation."

Check the [UWSOM Intranet](#) often for updates, don't hesitate to [send us questions](#); we'll do our best to respond as quickly as possible.

Please take care of yourselves.

Suzanne and Raye

Suzanne Allen, MD, MPH

Vice Dean for Academic, Rural and Regional Affairs
University of Washington School of Medicine

Raye Maestas, MD

Associate Dean for Student Affairs
University of Washington School of Medicine