

March 15, 2020

Dear Students,

As we navigate the uncertainties and complexities of the COVID-19 pandemic, we want to thank you for your desire to be helpful and of service to patients and each other, and for your willingness to problem solve through the many creative ideas you've shared with us.

We are continuing to make decisions based on prioritizing the safety of our students, faculty and staff, the care and safety of our patients, and providing the education necessary to help you learn and graduate on time.

At this time, we feel the risks to students and the larger community outweighs any educational benefits of students continuing in their clinical rotations. **Thus, we have made the difficult decision to no longer have students in clinical rotations, effective Monday, March 16, 2020.** We anticipate it will be at least the end of April before students can return to the clinical environment.

We did not make this decision lightly or in a vacuum. We have had, and will continue to have many discussions with other medical schools, residency programs, national medical organizations, our accreditation organization and other constituents related to medical education. We have heard from peer institutions nationally that they are making the same decision to halt in-person clerkships.

We are working with departments, clerkship directors and curriculum on alternative learning experiences that will allow students to receive credit for the clerkship they are currently in, and to graduate on time. The Curriculum team is working on alternative full-time elective courses that students will be able to take beginning March 30 to ensure that students have meaningful learning experiences, are registered for enough credits for financial aid and can stay on track for graduation. These experiences will be online, which will require that you have reliable high-speed internet.

Additionally, we are working with UWSOM career advisors and departmental career advisors to determine recommendations for away rotations, residency applications and interviews.

Many of you have expressed concern about your curriculum schedule and how it will impact future scheduling. Our registrar team will reach out to each student in a prioritized manner to review your individual situation. Priority will be given to students graduating in June.

For students currently at a WWAMI location and doing a clinical rotation, please return to your home as soon as possible as you normally would, following the same process for returning that you used in traveling to your current location. If you drove to the clerkship, please drive back home. If you flew to your clerkship (students who are doing rotations in Alaska), please email [gowwami@uw.edu](mailto:gowwami@uw.edu) and put "Return Flight from Clerkship" in email subject line so your travel can be prioritized.

We appreciate your patience and thank you for your flexibility and understanding. Please watch for more information as these plans are further developed and implemented.

We encourage all of you to heed the public health recommendations to limit travel, minimize gatherings, maximize social distancing in all settings, avoid touching your face and wash your hands frequently and thoroughly. Please stay healthy!

Sincerely,



Paul G. Ramsey, M.D.

Dean, University of Washington School of Medicine



Suzanne Allen, M.D., M.P.H.

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UW Medicine

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