

Dear Students,

Howdy, we hope you and those you love are well during this difficult time.

We are now three weeks into the College of Medicine's COVID Contingency Planning. This week has been a week of re-evaluation to determine the next phase of our curriculum continuity plan. We have reassessed the national, regional, TAMU, and COM current state to determine how to best move forward.

April 13th is the next transition point for most classes, so we wanted to provide you with an update to describe what your class specific schedule will be at that time.

Brief summary of curriculum related decisions that have been made so far:

- Please be aware that these decisions are contingency plans that are subject to change. Curriculum Committee has been actively reviewing and providing feedback on all plans. Similarly, the student subcommittee continues to provide valuable feedback.
- COM has implemented a no-patient-contact rule in accordance with the AAMC/LCME recommendations.
- CLRC resources remain very limited at this time and will continue to impact simulation training and assessment.
- NBME customized exams for pre-clerkship continue to be unavailable. Some new but limited offerings will come available in mid-late April that we will be investigating their use in our curriculum.
- NBME exams for clerkships are becoming available in mid-April for delivery under a modified proctoring rule.
- Campuses continue to develop a variety of learning activities that will be available as SIEs for M2s-M4s to meet no-patient-contact needs.

Factors impacting our next decisions:

- AAMC/LCME Guidelines - Extended the no-patient-contact guideline to April 14, to preserve student safety, preservation of PPE, and current patient testing limitations. We will not be surprised to see this extended a bit further. They also have said that totally no-patient-contact clerkships not acceptable.
- Current Peak Projections - Peak expected across the country to occur through April-early May. Current projection for Texas are for a peak around the first week in May, obviously subject to change.
- Shelter-In-Place - Expecting most counties to extend through April; however Dallas county just extended their orders through May 20. Public schools closures continue (ex. Brazos County thru May 6).

- TAMU- Summer sessions will be delivered online, and there is a possibility that fall semester to be impacted.
- Campus Deans Status Reports - Affiliate Health Care Systems are already strained or will be very soon.

Updated class specific curriculum decisions:

M1s:

- Next transition from ID to CV is April 13th.
- **M1s will continue in semester 2 courses (CV, Resp, MSGR, POM2)**
- Goal continues to be to finish Semester 2 on current schedule.
- Course content – delivered online either as recorded content or zoom meetings. Each course is actively adopting to these parameters.
- CSIEs – trialed by ZOOM in ID block, and will continued for subsequent blocks.
- TBLS – continue for EnMed via ZOOM.
- CPCs – ZOOM format has been created.
- CLRC - resources remain very limited, so POM2 continues to adjust.
- Assessments
 - Modified testing will continue (content, delivery, proctoring)
 - Internal exams will continue for now. Should NBME situation change will address course by course.
 - Proctoring continues to be the biggest hurdle. The priority is to delivery exams on same calendar dates but be flexible in content, delivery, and proctoring methods. Courses will continue address this on an exam by exam basis and keep students informed.
 - OSCEs are not available at this time.
- Final Grades
 - Changes in grading schemes are under discussion for ID. Pre-clerkship subcommittee and student subcommittee are providing perspectives to the Curriculum Committee.
 - Incompletes can be assigned should there be further unexpected disruption to completing courses.

M2s:

- Next key transition in curriculum is April 13th.
- Plan is to make this transition as scheduled, so **all M2s to start USMLE Step 1 self-study** if not already doing so now.

M3s:

- Next transition in curriculum is April 13th.
- There are three groups of M3s:
 - M3s due to start short clerkships (Pedi, Psych, FM, Ob/Gyn)
 - M3s due to start long clerkships (IM, Surg)
 - M3s in AIM
- Drivers for our decisions
 - M3s are in the last clerkships for the academic year.
 - We need to minimize further delays in their schedule as much as possible.
 - We can leverage the combination of front loaded no-patient contact content to be a part of Step 2 prep.

- Based on information from yesterday's national AAMC meeting, we are consistent with what many other schools are doing.
- Clerkship input during the COM's Council of Course Directors meeting this week.
- **April 13th – all M3s will be in 3 weeks of electives**
- **May 4th – ALL clerkships will begin**
- **Both long block clerkships (IM/Surg) will front load no-patient-contact activities (didactics/self-study) for 4 weeks. Patient care will then resume if available to complete the remaining 4 weeks.**
- **All short block clerkships will front load no-patient-contact activities (didactics/self-study) for 3 weeks. Patient care will then resume if available to complete the remaining 3 weeks.**
- Details about front loading will be provided during clerkship orientation sessions.
- If patient contact is still restricted upon completion of front loading period, students will transition into their next non-patient contact clerkship (shorts) or electives (longs).
- Concurrent with these activities student should be studying for Step 2. Academic Success office will be helping with this.
- NBMEs will be offered at end of front loading to minimize need for future testing. All clerkships have agreed that a student will be able to retake the NBME if they fail or are unsatisfied with their score. Details around this are still under discussion.
- OSCE will continue to be delayed. All clerkships with OSCE's are open to having a future multi-disciplinary OSCE to minimize number of OSCEs needed to complete clerkships.
- Clerkship administrators (directors and coordinators) are your primary contacts during this time.
- M3s AIM
 - AIM will continue the track learning activities to complete the third year.
- We will make any needed modifications to this plan as May 4th approaches.
- Impact on 4th year
 - USMLE Step 2 CK availability remains unclear at this time.
 - Make-up experiences will be initiated once patient contact allowed.

MS4:

- Goal remains to get M4s graduated as scheduled.
- Student Affairs requested feedback about early graduation interest.
- Student Affairs Deans will continue to be the primary contact for you. Navigators will be available to help as well.
- Discussions are ongoing with input from your class officers about doing some sort of online virtual ceremony similar to the real thing with regalia being delivered to your home if you wish.

Hopefully, you will find this email helpful in understanding some of the work the COM has and is doing to take care of you during this time.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Gibson MD