

Rationale

The purpose of this document is to provide a contingency plan regarding resurgence of COVID-19 for the Texas A&M College of Medicine in the event of a significant surge of sick patients into our health care systems, a significant change in our Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supply, and/or rising safety concerns for our faculty, staff, and students.

Background

With positive trends in COVID-19 numbers, availability of PPE, and COVID-19 testing availability, Texas A&M University (TAMU) College of Medicine (COM) tentatively plans to allow a phased re-entry of its faculty, staff, and students as requested starting on June 1, 2020. This re-entry plan was submitted to TAMU (Mark Barteau as the TAMU Vice President of Research) on May 12, 2020 and is pending approval.

Throughout this re-entry period and subsequently, the COM must closely monitor the situation and prepare contingency plans in case circumstances dictate resumption of more restrictive workplace access, learning activities (no-patient contact experiences), clinical activities, and research. Please note that with our five campuses (Bryan/College Station, Dallas, Houston, Round Rock, and Temple) along with our multiple sites throughout the state, this plan would likely need to be implemented based on the status of each geographic area and potentially even in BCS based on the status of each building (e.g. CB1, HPEB, MREB I, MREB II, Reynolds) in collaboration with other TAMU colleges where appropriate (e.g. Nursing and Pharmacy).

Resurgence Contingency Plan

As with the re-entry process, attention to the following elements will guide the COM's resurgence response:

Guidance Resources – TAMU COM will utilize the following national, state, and local resources for guidance in response to negative trends in the COVID-19 pandemic:

- National – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), federal laws, Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) monitoring by COM leadership
- State – laws, regional rules and regulations
- Local – laws, TAMU, and TAMU Health Science Center (HSC) policies and procedures

COVID Contingency Planning Meetings and Activities – In order to adequately monitor the status of the pandemic, COM will continue the following established meetings:

Meeting/Activity	COM Primary Attendees	Frequency
Dean Check-in	Dean and Senior Leaders	Daily
COVID-19 Announcements (news, email, postings)	All COM	Daily
Campus/Site COVID-19 Contingency Planning Meetings	Dean, Executive Deans, Campus/Site leadership	Weekly
Office of Medical Education (OME) Core Team Meeting	OME leadership	Every two weeks
COM Executive Committee (EC)	Dean, Administrative leadership, Department Heads	Every two weeks
AAMC Meetings – Council of Deans (COD), Academic Affairs (AA), Student Affairs (SA), Group on Resident Affairs (GRA)	Dean and Senior Leaders	Weekly
Campus/Site COVID-19 Meeting	Campus/Site Leaders	Weekly
LCME Updates	Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) team	Weekly
TAMU TEMAG COVID-19 Meetings	Dean and COM Representatives	Weekly
COM Department Head Meetings	Department Heads	Every two weeks
TAMU Council of Deans	Dean	Weekly
TAMU HSC Council of Deans	Dean	Every two weeks
TAMU COM Pandemic Advisory Group	Dean, COM experts, Dean designees	Case dependent

Proposed Warning Monitoring and Mitigation Metrics

Monitoring Metrics	Warning Signals	Current Status	Primary Responsibility
Campus/Site Health Care Systems			
Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Bed Occupancy	# day trend usage #%	Site Monitoring	Campus/Site Dean
Daily New COVID-19 Cases	# days of # new cases and increasing case growth	Site Monitoring	Campus/Site Dean
COVID-19 case growth trend	# day trend of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upward trajectory of documented cases - Upward trajectory of positive test as a % of total test 	Site Monitoring	Campus/Site Dean
System Equipment & PPE needs	# N95 mask # Gloves # Gowns	Site Monitoring	Campus/Site Dean
COVID-19 testing capacity	At least # - # polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test per day for patients and healthcare workers (with <48 hr turnaround)	Site Monitoring	Campus/Site Dean

Proposed Warning Monitoring and Mitigation Metrics (continued)

Monitoring Metrics	Warning Signals	Current Status	Primary Responsibility
TAMU COM Learning/Work Environment			
Environmental Safety	# Documented violations of established safety parameters # of significant safety events	Monitored locations: labs, classrooms, offices, public spaces, campus/sites	COM EC
Affiliate Collaborations	Accessibility to Clinical Facilities	Site Monitoring	Campus/Site Dean
Patient Volume	% compared to normal patient volume	Site Monitoring	Clerkship & Elective Directors
Student Supervision	Student: faculty ratio	Site Monitoring	Clerkship & Elective Directors
Comparability of Student Experiences	Curriculum Continuity Plans	Site Monitoring	Executive Clerkship Directors
Personal Protective Equipment Availability	# N95 mask # Surgical mask # Gloves # Gowns	Monitored locations: labs, classrooms, offices, public spaces, campus/sites	COM EC
Adequacy of Staffing	# COM employees out due to COVID-19 related issues	All COM	COM EC
TAMU COM COVID-19 Infections			
Presumptive Evidence of Spread	Locations: 1) Building 2) Campus 3) College 4) Community	All COM	TAMU COM Pandemic Advisory Group