



COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) UPDATE TO THE JABSOM COMMUNITY #2
Curricular Updates and Impacts
March 12, 2020

Aloha everyone,

As our state and country move into [COVID-19 community mitigation](#) mode, there are constant and rapid changes that are difficult to track and process. Fortunately, testing and surveillance are becoming more accessible in some Hawai'i communities so we will have better information about the SARS-CoV-2 epidemiology over the next weeks and months. The JABSOM leadership team continues to work with UH leadership, the State and our health system partners to help **keep our communities safe, ensure the continuation of education** and other business operations and be **good stewards of resources**. JABSOM, like every other [medical school](#) is very closely monitoring the situation and has updated plans to ensure that education continues during the rapidly changing contexts of our larger community clinical learning environments. This includes continuing all clinical rotations and placements for medical technology, CSD, third- and fourth-year medical students, residents, and fellows. We must ensure they become skilled and competent in their fields while learning to manage communities, patients and clinical operations during pandemics. For physician learners, this crisis gives us a tremendous opportunity to teach and apply the core elements of health system science.

TRAVEL

We are adhering to [UH Travel Policies](#), as well as the [CDC recommendations for travel](#). Please see the [UH Travel FAQ](#) for details. As the situation in the US is changing rapidly, some schools, worksites and clinical sites may impose a 14-day self-quarantine for those returning from areas where community transmission is occurring.

Additional new mitigation strategies include:

- Curtailing school-sponsored neighbor island travel for outreach-type activities

LARGE GROUP and NON-ESSENTIAL SOCIAL GATHERINGS

This continues to evolve. CDC currently recommends limiting events to 50 or less people. As of this morning:

- The Biomedical Sciences Symposium is cancelled.
- The Willed Body Ceremony is restricted to the students and others directly involved with the program. Many of the family members who typically attend are in the [higher-risk categories](#) for developing serious illness from COVID-19. We want to keep them safe.
- Events bringing groups onto campus (i.e., high-school students and other pipeline/outreach programs) are cancelled.
- Colloquia, didactics, academic half-day in-person sessions will be converted to online delivery and adjusted to meet specific curricular needs. Changes to medical student exam procedures started today.
- We ask that Interest Group events (e.g., in-person group gatherings, in-person fundraisers) be modified to online gatherings/events or cancelled.



- As much as we need to socialize during this stressful time, we are asking to curtail all non-essential social gatherings and athletic events. Let's be creative in how we can maintain sanity, connectedness and group mindfulness while being socially distanced.

SHIFT TO ONLINE LEARNING

Per UH President [Lassner's message](#), the University of Hawai'i will be delivering online classwork beginning March 23, 2020. This applies to the pre-clinical, undergraduate and graduate classes. In-person classes are slated to resume on April 13, 2020, but this may change.

- Undergraduate and Graduate student courses will be taught per UH Manoa guidelines. Specific details will be communicated by the respective programs.
- Students who are working in research laboratories should adhere to UH Manoa recommendations. If you have questions, please see your advisor, graduate chair or Dr. Mariana Gerschenson at gerschen@hawaii.edu or 808-692-1516.
- Specific adjustments to medical student exams started today. This includes temperature screening and logistical adjustments to promote social distancing.
- Medical student courses (MD4, most immediately) will be online starting March 23, 2020. Additional shifts are being made to the clinical skills program, MS3 colloquia/transition to clerkship, boot camps, and senior seminars.
- Students with curricular questions can feel free to contact the Office of Medical Education.
- For all other questions, students should please feel free to call the Office of Student Affairs 692-1000 or email Dr. Larry Burgess (lburgess@hawaii.edu) & Dr. Kristen Teranishi (kteranis@hawaii.edu). The Office of Student Affairs will reach out regularly to students to maintain contact.
- Residency and fellowship programs should also plan to conduct academic half-day sessions via online learning, as is relevant to the topic. The timing and logistics around skills-focused workshops will need to be adjusted to a few months out. Remember that [ACGME](#) allows great flexibility when it comes to non-clinical experiences. The [ACGME recently updated their guidance](#) around training considerations.
- [Interim Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education](#) is on the CDC website.

CLINICAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Learning in clinical settings will continue

- On March 5, 2020, we distributed an email and memo to all medical student clerkship directors and others advising them of joint Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH) and JABSOM recommendations regarding medical students caring for patients in isolation. The communication contains details intended to keep our learners safe and to conserve and prioritize personal protective equipment (PPE) within HPH facilities.
- For clinical rotations within Queen's Health Systems (Punchbowl and QMC-West), their leadership has determined that medical students may not provide direct patient care for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Residents and Fellows may care for suspected cases (with proper supervision and PPE), but may not care for any presumptive positive or positive cases. These guidelines will be updated if the situation evolves.
- Recommendations regarding caring for patients receiving any type of isolation (that requires the use of PPE) may change. PPE availability and usage are being strictly monitored, as the priority must be given to healthcare workers providing direct patient care of those at risk for or diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Medical students, residents, and fellows should follow procedures and guidelines recommended by the clinical care site. Please contact your rotation supervisor, clerkship director or GME program director if you have any questions. All clinical learners and faculty must be flexible and balance safety,



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education, and resources. The accrediting bodies for medical schools and GME programs are working with all of us in medical education to ensure that curricular requirements are met while allowing for appropriate flexibility during these extraordinary circumstances.

- We continue to communicate with our clinical partners regarding resource capacity. We will keep the clinical departments and rotations updated.

JABSOM will remain open and the semester will be completed. As noted by President Lassner, all 10 campuses of UH will remain open and continue to operate as normal, with the exception of in-person classes moving online. All employees, including students and graduate assistants are expected to continue to come to work. JABSOM's library, dining and UH Cancer Center recreation will remain open to help support the wellness of our students and employees. Certain research activities on campus will be restricted, per a separate communication from Hubert Olipares and further communications from Associate Dean Gerschenson.

As a reminder, please continue to practice good sanitation, hygiene, and [preventive measures](#). Please check your email at least daily to ensure you have the most recent updates regarding your education or workplace advisories. Please also note the following key webpages that are being updated often:

- [UH Coronavirus resources page](#)
- [JABSOM Coronavirus resources page](#) – this is JABSOM-centric and also contains essential, quick links to the DOH website, including the phone number for clinicians to call if they have questions about risk and screening (808) 586-4586
- [Hawai'i DOH Healthcare Provider page](#)

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we work to ensure the health and well-being of our entire community, including the other health professionals we work with and the patients we aim to serve. Stay calm. Breathe deeply. Wash your hands.

With sincere aloha,

Lee Ellen Buenconsejo-Lum, MD, FAAFP

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

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