Good afternoon,

You are receiving this email because you are scheduled to have a UGA APPE student during block 9 starting Monday, March 16.

The College has received approval from UGA administration to allow an exemption to the 2-week suspension of classes for APPEs. **This means APPE block 9 will continue as planned starting this Monday, March 16.** Students were notified of this decision this afternoon and were instructed to arrive at their scheduled APPE site at the agreed upon time determined by their preceptor.

So you are aware of additional guidance provided to our APPE students, we have included previous communication below.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We are very appreciative of your commitment to educating our students.

Sincerely,
Lindsey Welch, Pharm.D., BCPS
APPE Director
UGA College of Pharmacy
LHWELCH@uga.edu, 706-542-5280

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Dear APPE students,

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to affect a growing number of people in the U.S., in our state, and possibly at your practice site, we wanted to reach out to you regarding your continued responsibilities on your APPEs. As a healthcare professional, it is your responsibility to ensure the continued health and safety of patients, other healthcare providers, and yourself. As a reminder, suggested healthy hygiene practices include:

- Washing hands often with soap and water;
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick;
- Staying home when you are sick;
- Coughing into your elbow or into a tissue; and,
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces.

**As part of your responsibility, you must notify your preceptor and the UGA Division of Experience Programs before reporting to your site or at any time during the experience if you:**

- Have a fever
- Are experiencing lower respiratory illness, including a cough or shortness of breath
- Have traveled outside of the US in the last 14 days or
- Have had direct contact with someone who is under investigation or has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19

**If the University closes, you should go to your practice site unless instructed otherwise by your preceptor or site.**

As always, you should follow your site’s policies and procedures. We understand that some of your APPE responsibilities may change due to the institution’s responsibilities for care of patients with COVID-19. This is being done to limit potentially exposed individuals and to conserve resources, and these adjustments are appropriate
and align with current recommendations. However, in a few short weeks, you will be pharmacists, and you are important members of the health-care team. You have a professional obligation to help, as appropriate, as a member of the patient care team.

**You should immediately contact your Regional Coordinator and Dr. Welch for any of the following reasons:**

- If there is a significant change in your rotation expectations (i.e. move from direct patient care to remote assignment)
- In the event you cannot complete your APPE due to illness, self-imposed quarantine or site-imposed quarantine policies
- If your preceptor or site instructs you not to attend your APPE for any reason
- If you are asked to perform additional clearance items related to COVID-19

Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis for students whose experiences are disrupted.

This emerging situation provides valuable lessons on how policies and recommendations are developed and modified as our knowledge of the virus continues to develop. It is also an important reminder of the role pharmacists play in the front line of healthcare and their obligation to provide care and information with the best evidence possible. We are here to support you in any way we can.