March 11, 2020

(DESPITE THE LENGTH OF THIS EMAIL; YOU’RE URGED TO READ ITS CONTENTS IN ITS ENTIRETY)

Dear Faculty and Staff:

The potential for the Coronavirus (COVID-19) to affect our university and college community has been an issue for us to consider. In addition, the health, safety and well-being of our Pharmacy family is paramount. I wanted to take this opportunity to emphasize:

1. Spring Break considerations, including the potential need for self-quarantining following travel;
2. Continuity in teaching and learning for students;
3. Information resources from UGA;
4. Health precautions to take; and,
5. College of Pharmacy preparations.

Spring Break Message from UGA

UGA senior administration sent you an email yesterday outlining key precautionary measures and resources regarding Spring Break and the Coronavirus – check here if you missed it: https://www.uga.edu/coronavirus/documents/archnews-2020-03-05.pdf. Here are some important areas of focus:

- Check the travel information on the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) and [State Department](https://www.state.gov) websites and talk with your family and travel companions to make a wise decision about travel plans.
  - The University of Georgia has cancelled Spring Semester, Spring Break, and Maymester programs in China, South Korea, and Italy — all Level 3 or 4 countries on the State Department and CDC websites. The CDC strongly advises that you should not travel to a location with a Level 3 or Level 4 Travel Health Notice.
  - In an abundance of caution and consistent with guidelines from the CDC and Georgia Department of Health, all travelers originating from, returning from, or connecting through a CDC Warning Level 3 or higher travel notice area MUST NOT return to a University of Georgia campus or facility until they have been asymptomatic for a period of 14 days from the date of entering/reentering the United States. Travelers should self-quarantine and follow CDC and local health authority guidelines.
  - Guidelines for self-quarantine from the CDC include:
    - Restricting activities outside the home except for appointments with a medical professional for evaluation.
- Limited contact with others in the home, including pets.
- Frequent hand washing.
- Regular cleaning of all high-touch surfaces including tables, countertops, doorknobs, keyboards, tablets, bathroom fixtures, television remotes, and phones.
- Limiting the sharing of household items such as drinking glasses, plates, utensils, bedding, towels, and clothing.
- Washing dishes, clothing, and bedding regularly.

- Remember, the status of countries or regions regarding coronavirus may change while you are traveling and affect airport or other travel processes. Stay connected to the CDC and State Department websites to ensure you have the latest information. We want you to return to Georgia safely.
- For all students, faculty, and staff, **if you are traveling internationally in any capacity -- through UGA or on personal travel -- please register your travel through the Office of Global Engagement’s International Travel Registry.**

### Ensuring Continuity in Teaching, Learning and Other Student Services – Office of Instruction

In addition, many of you received a message from Dr. Rahul Shrivastav, UGA Vice President for Instruction, yesterday regarding continuity in teaching and learning for students, should an exposure or outbreak occur. Key points in Dr. Shrivastav’s message:

- “...the Office of Instruction has created some guidelines and a repository of tools to help maintain continuity of our instructional activities. You can review these here: [Technology for Teaching and Learning Continuity](#).
- “I am requesting that every faculty member review this website and create a test module using these instructions as quickly as possible, preferably within the next week. If you do not already use E-Learning Commons (eLC) for your courses, you should log-in and access your courses in eLC immediately; there are instructions on the webpage if you have not done this before. Ideally, test the module using technology from your home to ensure that the setup works. Testing your ability now will allow us to troubleshoot and provide additional support and training while we have an opportunity to do so.

Please re-read the message to understand expectations and respond accordingly. **Specific guidance for any additional actions pharmacy faculty should take will be forthcoming.**

### UGA Resources

[https://www.uga.edu/coronavirus](https://www.uga.edu/coronavirus) is the website UGA is constantly updating to communicate important information. This site lists UGA resources in detail.

### Health Precautions

Proper precautions are how you can help stop the spread of an illness! Recommended healthy hygiene practices include:

- Wash hands often with soap and water;
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Stay home when you are sick;
- Cough into your elbow or into a tissue; and,
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

### College of Pharmacy Preparations and Plans
Leaders within the college are already meeting to formulate a plan should a potential outbreak/exposure occur. We must be prepared to modify our instructional program to accommodate situations as they arise, and any necessary approaches to adjust instructional plans will be communicated to you. Check your UGA email routinely to stay informed.

Providing a safe, healthy, and supportive working and learning environment is our commitment at the College of Pharmacy. We will keep you posted and informed of our proactive plans and activities. Thank you for your efforts during this time.

Stay Healthy and Safe!

Sincerely,

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