



Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

July 14, 2020

Dear CMSRU students, faculty and staff:

I hope this message finds you well. I'm writing today to address a few things, including the COVID-19 outbreaks across the country and how the situation impacts CMSRU. I also want to share some of our tentative plans for the coming academic year.

Recently, Governor Phil Murphy issued [adirective that people entering New Jersey from states where the COVID-19 positive test rate is higher than 10 per 100,000 residents, or a state with a 10% or higher positivity rate over a 7-day rolling average, must self-quarantine for 14 days.](#) As of today, the following 22 states are on the list: Alabama; Arkansas; Arizona; California; Florida; Georgia; Iowa; Idaho; Kansas; Louisiana; Mississippi; North Carolina; Nevada; New Mexico; Ohio; Oklahoma; South Carolina; Tennessee; Texas; Utah; and Wisconsin.

The health, safety and well-being of CMSRU students, faculty and staff remains our top priority. Therefore, CMSRU will follow the State of New Jersey's directive for everyone in our educational community. I urge students who reside in one of the affected states to consider the 14-day quarantine when finalizing travel plans back to campus.

Faculty, staff or students who are traveling for vacation or business to one of the affected areas will also be required to self-quarantine for 14 days before returning to the CMSRU campus. Employees should notify their supervisor if they have planned a trip to one of the states listed in the State of New Jersey's directive; students must submit notification to Office of Student Affairs.

Our facilities team has been preparing our medical education building, including: Arrangement of furniture and marking for social distancing; signage; environmental cleaning; placement of hand hygiene stations; and construction of plexiglass barriers at open workstations, to name a few.

The Office of Medical Education has been working diligently with a "return to the educational environment committee" to address specifics and logistical tasks related to the upcoming academic year. They have sketched out some options for each Phase 1 course and the ambulatory clerkship. The overarching plan is to have a hybrid curriculum, where experiential sessions are delivered in person and sessions that can effectively be delivered virtually are delivered virtually. Their work will require appropriate approval from the Curriculum Committee. For on-site activities on school property we will require everyone to abide by universal masking and social distancing when they are in the presence of others. We will also require that anyone who has fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 not come to work or school. The Office of Student Affairs sent a communication to all M1 and M2 students providing the process for students who have any concerns about participating in any in-person sessions in the coming year.

M4 students are back in the clinical environment and our M3 students will join them on July 27th. Within the clinical environment, we expect everyone to abide by the policies and procedures of Cooper University Health Care (CUHC). Our expectation is 100% compliance

with the personal protective equipment required by CUHC.

The citizens of New Jersey have made tremendous sacrifices over the past four months in an effort to flatten the curve, and we have been successful. As other regions of the country experience surges, it is important that we remain vigilant and flexible in our efforts to fight this pandemic. Please realize that any and all plans that the school is developing are subject to change based upon local circumstances and governmental mandates, but I feel CMSRU is ready to pivot if the need arises.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please stay well.

Sincerely,

Annette C. Reboli, M.D.

Annette C. Reboli, MD
Dean and Professor of Medicine