



Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

August 5, 2020

Dear CMSRU Students, Faculty and Staff:

This coming Monday, we are excited to kick-off the 2020-21 academic year for our M1 and M2 students. While the start of this year will be very different, we remain fully committed to ensuring the safety of our community and maintaining the integrity of our curriculum. We will continue to march on despite the pandemic - staying adaptable, flexible and emotionally intelligent during this very fluid situation.

Starting this **Friday, August 7, the Library/Learning Commons in the Medical Education Building will be available as a study space** for all CMSRU students during the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. The space will have limited capacity and be closed each day from Noon-1 p.m. for environmental cleaning. For those who choose to study in the Library/Learning Commons, you are required to follow the safety measures we have put in place, including wearing a mask at all times, social distancing of at least 6 feet, not sitting where you see red "stop signs", and cleaning desks and chairs with sanitizing wipes before and after use.

Our M3 and M4 students now have a few weeks of clinical education under their belts, and I've already received excellent feedback on their achievements. Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Erin Pukenas and I have been working closely with Dr. Raquel Nahra, Assistant Professor of Medicine and CUHC Hospital Epidemiologist, to ensure that students and clinical faculty are adhering to infection prevention practices in the clinical setting. I encourage all members of our community to continue to demonstrate leadership and professionalism by speaking up if they see a lapse in infection prevention practices by a classmate, colleague, teacher, student or mentor. We are living through extraordinary times, and an occasional gentle reminder can be helpful. Students who experience a situation where they feel unsafe, and do not feel comfortable speaking up, can reach out to the Office of Student Affairs to report an incident or notify their SGA leadership.

New Jersey has seen a slight uptick in the rate of infection from the coronavirus, caused mainly by unsafe activities by 18-24 year olds. I believe this uptick is manageable, and we must do our part to reverse the trend by following the safety guidelines that have been established. Please continue to socially distance, practice frequent hand hygiene and wear your mask. Until we, as Americans, can get control over this pandemic, this is our "new normal." We must continue to do what we can to move forward in our mission to provide an outstanding medical education for our students.

Sincerely,

Annette C. Reboli, M.D.

Annette C. Reboli, MD
Dean and Professor of Medicine

