



Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

August 13, 2020

Dear CMSRU Students, Faculty and Staff:

This week, 111 new students in the Class of 2024 started their medical education and we welcomed back the Class of 2023 for their second year of medical school. While I wish things were "normal" and we were having all of our traditional face-to-face orientation week events and activities, I still find the beginning of the academic year -- and the addition of so many bright young people to the CMSRU family -- to be exciting and inspiring. Thank you to our deans, directors, staff, and faculty for their hard work in prioritizing the integrity and continuity of our educational program and the safety of our students and faculty during this emergency situation.

I have been encouraged by the reduced rate of transmission of COVID we have been seeing in New Jersey over the past couple of weeks. The transmission rate fell below a key benchmark this week, following a pause in New Jersey's reopening by the Governor after an uptick in cases last month. Once again, New Jerseyans have proven that following simple guidelines, including hand hygiene, wearing masks, and social distancing, can affect the rate of transmission of this virus. Please continue to adhere to these practices in both your personal and professional lives. For an up-to-date list of states that require a 2-week self-quarantine after visiting, [please click here](#).

This week, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) compiled the [latest scientific information on mask usage](#) from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), state and local governments, and public health experts into one commonsense, scientific approach to face coverings for the public to help prevent and lower the transmission of the coronavirus. This national guidance, [The Way Forward on COVID-19: Consensus Guidance on Face Coverings](#) from the AAMC Research and Action Institute, builds on the AAMC's [recently released road map](#) to reset the nation's response to the pandemic.

In addition to the newly-released AAMC guidance, a new, simple, low-cost study in Science Advances [examined different types of face coverings](#) to determine their efficacy for filtering droplets while speaking. [The most effective face coverings were fitted N95 masks without valves, three-layer surgical masks, and homemade poly/cotton masks](#), while folded bandanas and knitted masks offered little protection. The study also showed that [fleece neck gaiters may actually make matters worse](#) by breaking up large droplets into smaller ones as someone speaks.

If you have returned to our medical education building in the past couple of weeks, or plan to come to campus, you will see that our team has put in a great deal of work to ensure that recommended infection prevention measures are in place in our building. The Library/Learning Commons and the ALGs are now open for studying, and **Stat Café**, the luncheonette located on the first floor, has reopened. The café has partnered with Grubhub for mobile ordering. [Click here for step-by-step instructions for downloading Grubhub to your mobile device.](#)

Thank you to everyone who has worked to make sure our building is ready for faculty, students and staff to return. As you begin to spend time in our medical education building, please be mindful of the signs around the building outlining the rules we must all follow.

Best wishes to all for continued good health and another successful academic year!

Sincerely,

Annette C. Reboli, M.D.

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Dean and Professor of Medicine