

Dear Ostrow Community,

We've just completed the third week of our "Safer at Home" social distancing endeavor to slow the spread of coronavirus, and I know we are all eager to get back to life as we knew it. It's hard to watch the news and not feel frustrated with how this is affecting so many of our neighbors, our friends, and potentially our family. I implore you to consider what actions or activities you can partake in, safely, that bring you comfort and joy. As many of you know, I enjoy the great outdoors and thus in my free time I'm mapping-out new hiking, off-road driving, and camping trails throughout Southern California and beyond that provide me personal purpose and vision for the future.

While I had originally communicated we may return on April 20, it looks like we will need to extend that deadline, waiting until I have proper clearance to reopen the clinics. Do know that I am actively monitoring the situation and working closely with USC leadership to find the earliest date possible for us to be able to return healthfully and safely.

I realize this time is probably the most difficult for our graduating students and residents who are eager to finish their education and get their careers started. I was really inspired recently by our student leadership, who have seized upon this unprecedented time to challenge the way dental licenses are granted in California. Understandably frustrated by licensure exam postponement and the need to find live patients, they have called on their peers to reach out to California lawmakers to grant students license by graduation.

Earlier this week, we launched "Smarter at Home," an online continuing education series. Knowing that many of us have more time on our hands, we thought it was the perfect opportunity to help our community continue their life-long learning efforts from the comfort of their own homes. From *Clinical Solutions in Esthetic Dentistry: Conquering Adhesive Integrity* to *"Drilling — No Thanks!" Micro-Invasive Caries Management Options*, this online series is free to all faculty (*USCDENTFaculty*), students (*USCDENTStudent*) and alumni (*USCDENTALumni*) with the respective promotion codes. For more information about those courses, go to nvite.com/community/uscdentistry.

I want to once again take the opportunity to thank you all for your continued patience and flexibility during this time of great upheaval. While social distancing can be isolating, it's

important to remember that we are all part of the Trojan Dental Family. As such, we are all in this together.

Stay safe, stay healthy and Fight On!

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