

## Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC



Dear Ostrow Community,

Like many of you, I have felt a tremendous sense of grief, anger and hurt after recently seeing the senseless murder of George Floyd at the hands of police officers. It's a scene that has unfolded before our eyes far too many times. I wish I had the solution to this pathology infecting our society, but I don't. Like many others, though, I want to better understand. All I can do is reflect, learn and, most importantly, listen to those in our community who have experienced this systemic racism in their lives. As always — even during these weeks of working from home — my door, as well as the doors of Drs. **Mahvash Navazesh** and **Kim Austin** are always open for you to share any concerns, suggestions or questions with me. You can also find [additional counseling and mental health care resources](#) on the Provost's website. No matter where you might seek support, just know, in the face of these tragedies, we will always be stronger together.

As I mentioned in last week's message, we have been given the greenlight to resume patient care in our advanced specialty clinics. This week, we ramped up efforts in preparation, holding an information session with more than **100 advanced specialty residents, faculty and staff members** to provide them the necessary resources and tools to return to work safely as well as fitting all of our residents for N95 masks. We continue working diligently to get all other pre-clinical and clinical operations up and running. It's important to note that Los Angeles County has stricter restrictions in place than many other areas around the country, so we will continue to work with local officials to make sure we can open in a safe, healthy manner.

To that end, we have developed a mandatory infection control training for **all**

**faculty, staff and students** to complete before they are permitted back on premises. Please visit <https://dent-web10.usc.edu/training> to complete this training. Once you click the link, you'll enter through the "Intranet Login" button on the right-hand side of the page under the header, "USC Faculty, Staff and Students." The login will take you to a new page, where you will see the COVID-19 training at the very top. Press the "COVID-19 Training" button and begin your training. Once you're done, you can print out your certificate of completion. Thank you to **Ben Creighton** and **Joyce Galligan** for their part in putting this training together to make sure our community stays safe. And, of course, thank you to our Covid-19 safety committee, led by **Dr. Winston Chee**, for so carefully putting together these protocols to ensure a safe and healthy work and learning space.

Finally, I would like to share with you some changes that we've already made to the school in anticipation of our return. If you click the link below, titled "[Image Gallery](#)," you will be taken to a photo gallery, featuring many of the changes you can expect. For example, we have installed new HEPA air-scrubbing units located at designated spots around the school, based on air circulation. So far, we have installed them in the Patterson Technology Center Surgical Suites (where we have been treating urgent-care patients so far), as well as the Orthodontics and Advanced Operative and Adhesive Dentistry clinics, with more on their way. We have also erected tents at our main patient entrance and the east end of the building for health screening and have designated separate entrances and exits for patients and faculty/staff/students/residents. All of these new protocols will be included in the mandatory training, so make sure to take the time to complete it.

Stay safe, healthy and Fight On!

*Avishai*

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Professor of Dentistry

## IMAGE GALLERY

## Coronavirus (Covid-19) Updates



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