

Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC



Dear USC Dental Community:

As you've likely heard, California Governor Gavin Newsom has taken steps recently to slow, or in some cases, roll back our re-opening efforts as the Golden State — and especially Los Angeles County — endures a spike in coronavirus cases. At this time, the rollbacks do not impact any of our plans, but should that change, we will most certainly let you know.

As I've reported, we recently reopened our Sim labs to both advanced specialty residents (for benchtop calibration sessions) and the DDS Class of 2020 (to practice for upcoming licensure exams). As you can imagine, life looks a lot different in our Sim labs. To respect those health and safety mandates put forth, we have started by allowing 36 students at a time in Sim Lab A and nine people in Sim Lab B. Our numbers will increase very shortly, but I am first focused on safety. I've [included some photos](#) from the school to demonstrate how seriously we're taking our efforts to ensure a healthy educational environment. I also wanted to share [a video](#) with you all of Lewis Jackson, or just "Jackson" as he's known, a member of facilities, using a fogger to disinfect our auditoriums. We are taking all of these steps to ensure a healthy educational environment once we all return.

To that end, I am looking forward to the return of our D1s and D2s in the very near future and want to again reassure our D3s and D4s that we are working diligently with state, county and USC health officials to get our DDS clinical operations back up and running. Once I have more information, I will share it with you immediately.

It's hard to believe that 2020 was drastically interrupted in mid-March, and here

we are now about to celebrate the Fourth of July in the middle of a pandemic. I mentioned last week the importance of maintaining vigilance of your activities outside of our educational facilities, knowing the impact they could have inside our educational facilities. I want to take the opportunity again to implore you to enjoy this holiday weekend, safely. It may be tempting to overlook all of the CDC and WHO guidelines for a moment of normality, but your actions do not only impact you, they can impact some of our most vulnerable populations that you come in contact with. I hope your time at Ostrow has imbued in you a responsibility for society's most vulnerable, so please wear your mask and maintain social distance. We're all in this together.

With that, I wish you a Happy Fourth of July!

Avishai

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[Coronavirus \(Covid-19\) Updates](#)



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