

Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC



Dear USC Dentistry Community:

It has been so refreshing to see our bright-eyed dental students returning to the Norris Dental Science Center after months of studying from home.

Witnessing their exuberance and eagerness to get back to life at Ostrow has even personally reinvigorated me, giving me that uplift I needed myself after so many months in virtual isolation. It was a hard few months, and I'm glad that we're able to put some

of it behind us and move forward, stronger for having together weathered this adversity.

Even though we're back at school and it might be tempting to return to life exactly as it was before, it's really imperative that we recognize that we are still very much living, studying and treating patients in the midst of a global pandemic. L.A. County continues to experience record hospitalizations per day and even took the step to roll back some its own reopening for a few weeks.

So, what does this mean for us? Simply put, it means that we must remain ever vigilant in regards to our behavior and the impact it could have on our fellow community members or patients. We must continue to wear masks at all times while on the USC campus. Unless you are alone in your own office, there is never an appropriate time to de-mask while on campus. It means we must continue to maintain at least six feet of distance in our study spaces, including in the Sim Lab. It means that we must always wear proper personal protective equipment, that we must continue to practice exceptional hand washing hygiene. It means we must not congregate in the hallways or hang out in the Sim Lab or patient care areas unless we are working.

Moreover, a word about social media. You've likely missed your colleagues, your classmates, your favorite staff members and might be tempted to snap a quick photograph together, hugging, or momentarily demasking to show your face. Remember that social media is out there for everyone. When you post things like this, it reflects poorly on the profession, the school and even you. Please be extra cautious with your social media posts and make sure to model appropriate behaviors. Faculty and students, you have taken the oath to be healthcare professionals. An important portion of that oath states, *"I will always practice my profession with the highest integrity, thoughtful judgment, and skills derived from scientific evidence. I will always conduct myself with conscience, compassion and dignity, with the health and well-being of my patients and community as the first consideration."* I am confident that everyone will do their part, and we can continue to get back to the normal we all miss so much.

Finally, thank you to all the staff members working diligently to prepare, and keep, our facilities and clinics safe and secure during this period. I recognize we've spent significant time — nearly four months — preparing for this return. We are all thankful and indebted to you for your hard work and unwavering commitment.

Stay safe, healthy, vigilant and, as always, Fight On!

Avishai

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



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