

## Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC



Dear USC Dentistry Community:

As you might have read from the [Office of the Provost on Aug. 5](#), USC made the difficult decision to begin the school year completely online until we receive clearance from the state and county to move forward with in-person instruction. This does not impact the health professions — dentistry, physical therapy, occupational therapy, pharmacy and medicine — which have been granted an exception by public

health officials. Although our didactic content will continue to be delivered online, we plan to welcome back our DDS Classes of 2021 and 2022 to campus to continue their clinical education, beginning Monday, Aug. 17.

Earlier this week, Dr. Solow laid out the steps necessary for each student to complete before coming back to the Norris Dental Science Center. As a reminder, you must have completed the [Ostrow-centric COVID-19 training module](#) before you will be granted access to the building at all. Make sure you log into that training as a faculty, staff or student and not a “guest.” Even if you complete the exam as a guest, entrance staff will not be able to see that and will not be permitted to allow you entrance to Norris. Additionally, the University is requiring students to take a “Health, Hygiene and Safety for Students” online training module. (Faculty and staff are required to take a separate training module, titled, “Health, Hygiene and Safety for Employees.”) These one-time trainings are online and can be taken anytime — if you haven’t already, please do so right away.

Dr. Solow also released a detailed, multi-page “Clinic Reopening Plan” that we encourage you to read over a few times. For ease of access, this document is currently available on the Ostrow Intranet. As I’ve mentioned many times, life at Ostrow will not look the same as when you left. There are a number of rules, protocols and safety procedures that we have implemented to not only meet

but, in many cases, exceed safety requirements laid out by the University and the County of Los Angeles. This plan lays out everything from how to move about the building to clinic layouts (that begin with 25 percent capacity and move to 50 percent capacity after a couple of weeks) to pre- and post-appointment COVID screening/questioning protocols. This document truly is the blueprint for a safe and healthy learning environment, so read it and learn it.

To prepare our students, we had a productive Dean's Town Hall, where Drs. Solow and Navazesh and I addressed all questions surrounding the return to school. Students, as I mentioned on the call, I realize there is a lot of understandable angst about getting back to your learning and making sure you're able to complete your studies and leave Ostrow a competent, confident oral health care provider. The faculty and staff are committed to each and every one of you so that is exactly what will happen. As we did with the Class of 2020, we will do all we can to provide the support (and understanding) necessary for you to complete your degree in a timely manner. I'd like to thank the students and group practice directors who showed up for this town hall. I hope it assuaged some of your concerns.

Finally, Dr. Solow mentioned the clinic orientation for your group practices, to take place on Thursday, Aug. 13 or Friday, Aug. 14. If you have any questions regarding your individual training, please reach out to your group practice directors.

The faculty and I are very eager to welcome these cohorts back to Norris Dental Science Center. I know 2020 has been a tremendously challenging year thus far. It's time to take some of the strength we've used to meet this adversity and bring it to our dental education. I am confident these challenges are only going to make our students stronger, more intelligent, more resilient and more competent health care professionals.

Stay safe, healthy and fight on!

*Avishai*

Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA

Dean

G. Donald and Marian James Montgomery

Professor of Dentistry

## Coronavirus (Covid-19) Updates



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