
Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[12/18/2020]



BI-WEEKLY DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

We have nearly made it to the end of a year like no other. I know, as the trimester winds down and coronavirus cases surge across the nation, many of us find ourselves feeling worn out and yearning — maybe even desperately so — for a little down time. Thankfully, we have two weeks of just that lying ahead of us, with the Winter Recess.

With vaccines rolling out earlier this week — and already finding their way into arms across the nation — it can be a little tempting to think it's all over, and we can return to life as usual right away. But keep in mind it will take some time — months yet — for these vaccines to make it into enough people for us to stop

physical distancing and losing the mask in public spaces. And, in the meantime, we are experiencing the worst days of the pandemic so far. So please remain vigilant.

In regards to the vaccines, as you might know, the federal government distributes them to the states who then distribute them to the counties. L.A. County will distribute to the University of Southern California and other healthcare centers, pharmacies and universities across the region. At USC, healthcare providers providing aerosol generating procedures are near the front of the line for receiving the vaccination, which will include some of our faculty, staff and students who are in various clinics. We will follow all the proper protocols to ensure, person by person, that our community receives the vaccine and that we will once again be able to return to doing what we love best. I have incredible optimism for 2021 and getting our lives back on track.

Beginning in January, everyone on campus, university-wide, will be required to receive a COVID-19 test weekly. To be prepared, the university is strongly encouraging our community to be tested before returning to the school on Jan. 4. Also, as is different with most Winter Recesses, I urge you throughout the next two weeks to be on the lookout for any emails — particularly from our Chief Health Officer Joyce Galligan, who might have urgent information to share with you as we being preparing to return for our Spring Trimester.

As you know, California remains under a travel advisory, and the university is directing all faculty, staff and students who choose to travel out of state for non-essential purposes during Winter Recess to quarantine for 14 full days before returning to in-person activities on campus. There's just no wiggle room here. So, please, think twice before heading out of state for the holidays.

All that said, I do hope you take the time these two weeks to really recharge. It's been one challenging year, and we all need to take a collective breath, re-energize and get ready for better days on the horizon.

With that, and from me and my family to you and yours, Happy Holidays, Happy New Year and, as always, Fight On!

Avishai

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Dean

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Coronavirus (Covid-19) Updates



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