
[View this email in your browser](#)

Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC

[1/22/2021]



BI-WEEKLY DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear USC Dentistry Community:

Over the past two weeks, Ostrow faculty, staff and students who are onsite at our facilities began the first step in what will be a long journey back to pre-pandemic normalcy with the first of two Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine shots. So many of us are beginning to breathe a sigh of relief as the light at the end of the tunnel, however still distant, begins to shine a little brighter. I would like to thank **Chief Health Officer Joyce Galligan** for her steady hand, working with Keck leadership — particularly **Chief Health Officer for USC Student Health Sarah Van Orman** — to bring this to fruition. I would also like to acknowledge the

86 student volunteers who signed up for four-hour shifts to be on-hand to help. I know you're all busy with your studies, so your assistance is very appreciated. [Click here](#) to see some of our community members receiving their first dose.

If you did not get your vaccination yet — and you are part of the eligible group who are at Norris Dental Science Center every day, interacting with patients — I urge you to take action at your earliest convenience. It's important that we are all vaccinated to keep members of our community, plus vulnerable members of our patient population, safe. Also, for those of you who did receive the first dose, and are awaiting the second, please keep in mind that it's still important to continue testing for COVID weekly, wearing a mask (both inside and outside the school), maintaining physical distance and practicing proper hand hygiene. One shot does not make you invincible, and it will likely take many more months of vigilance until we are able to resume activities as we did pre-COVID. In the coming weeks, those who received their first dose will once again return to the Lyon Center to receive the second dose. As you saw from yesterday's email from the Provost, USC is moving into the next stage of vaccinations for those 65 years and older. Be on the lookout for more information as we continue moving forward with vaccinating our community.



VACCINATION SPOTLIGHT

“As a result of my surgery from last February, the underlying condition that led to it and other factors, I am at increased risk for complications should I contract the virus. Although my doctors cleared me to attend clinic, I have been careful to take all

possible precautions — both in the clinic and away from school. Whereas some people might express that they are concerned about side effects from the COVID vaccine, particularly if they have certain health conditions, my doctors wanted me to be vaccinated as soon as possible. The benefit of receiving the vaccine far outweighs the possibility of side effects. As it turns out, I had no side effects.”

—Doug Solow,
Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs

As we announced in December, our community members will be required to maintain weekly COVID testing to gain entry to the University Park Campus. Until now, you’ve simply had to answer a few screening questions to get your daily QR code for access to campus. Beginning today, the app will also pull proof of a weekly negative test from the MySHR Portal in order to generate the QR code. You will also need to complete the Health, Hygiene and Safety Training (if you have not yet) and upload proof of your flu vaccine into the MySHR portal. If you haven’t done this, you will not receive the necessary QR code and will not be granted access to campus.

Earlier this month, we re-opened our Sim and Wet Labs, after a brief shutdown in December and throughout Winter Recess. Our students are now able to use the labs during normal business hours plus evenings and weekends. We have hired additional dispensary staff to ensure that PPE usage is consistent and that our students are following the proper protocol to ensure the learning spaces stay safe and healthy. Thank you to **Tom Sirikulbut, Tami Oshiro, Ben Creighton** and **Janice Huang** for filling these new positions and creating a system to allow students to register for sessions in these spaces.

On the clinic side, we have added additional faculty for the night clinics that take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. These additional faculty members have helped us to nearly double the number of chairs in use this trimester. I want to acknowledge those who have stepped up to work into the evening to ensure our students get the experience they need to graduate with the competence, confidence and skill befitting a Trojan dental professional. We also extended the hours for the red screening tent outside from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday to give our faculty, staff, students and vendors even more access to the Norris Dental Science Center. Finally, we recently added a second mobile clinic in Parking Lot V.

On [Ostrow Connect](#), you might have noticed that January is Mentorship Month. Having had several mentors myself throughout my professional journey, I can’t express enough how important they can be to fully realizing your potential. One aspect of Ostrow Connect, the social media platform exclusively for the Trojan Dental Family, is connecting potential mentors with mentees (current students, recent graduates, etc.). If you are interested in either mentoring or being mentored, make sure to check out ostrowconnect.usc.edu and click the Mentoring tab on the left-hand side of the feed.

As always, stay safe, healthy and fight on!

Avishai

Avishai Sadan, DMD, MBA

Dean

G. Donald and Marian James Montgomery

Professor of Dentistry



*Copyright © 2021 *ILIST:COMPANYI*, All rights reserved.*

ILIST:DESCRIPTIONI

Our mailing address is:

ILIST_ADDRESS_HTMLI

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).