

To all faculty, staff, and students:

Even in the face of the COVID-19 outbreak, we are still providing urgent and emergency care to our patients and carrying on our educational and research missions. It is imperative that we protect and preserve all the people at our School who are part of these missions – students, faculty, and staff alike – while also providing our patients with maximal protection.

Therefore, the travel restrictions implemented on March 9 will continue at least through May 1, 2020. During this time, **our School of Dentistry, the School of Medicine, and other Health Sciences schools are restricting all UW-related travel.** This includes all travel for conferences and meetings related to professional membership societies/associations and meetings or gatherings related to grants. Please do not travel outside the Puget Sound area at this time.

RIDE clinical participation is suspended, and students will remain home. We have also suspended our service learning rotations until further notice.

Exceptions to this work-related travel restriction will be extremely rare and must be supported and proposed by Department Chairs and me. I will make final decisions for exceptions. This restriction applies to faculty, staff, students, and residents.

While these restrictions are in effect, outside visitors are prohibited at the school. This includes invitations for interviews, study clubs, speaking engagements, and other meetings and gatherings. Please consider using Zoom or other virtual modalities as an alternative to in-person activities. Our expert SOD IT team can help you with implementing these options. Travel into and out of UW must be restricted.

Finally, I **strongly encourage you to carefully consider any personal travel outside of the Puget Sound region through May 1.** We are trying to mitigate risks to all of our people, and personal travel at this time adds another level of potential exposure that complicates this effort. I do appreciate the disruption this may cause for all of us, but this is a time to exercise the greatest possible prudence.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation, and please consult me if you have any questions.

GARY T. CHIODO, DMD, FACD
Professor and Dean