

## University of Pittsburgh | Activity Area Plan

### I. Overview

- Activity Area: School of Dental Medicine
- Lead: Bernard J. Costello, Dean
- Individuals submitting plan:
  - Marnie Oakley, Senior Associate Dean for Clinical and Faculty Affairs
  - Jean O'Donnell, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
  - Charles Sfeir, Associate Dean for Research
- Date: August 6, 2020
- Revision of a previously approved Activity Area Plan? YES
- A brief summary of the most critical pieces of your plan.
  - *Administrative Operations*: These activities include employees serving in various administrative support roles outside the formal clinical, research, and teaching arenas.
  - *Teaching*: These activities include meeting the requirements of didactic and pre-clinical courses in a four-year predoctoral curriculum, a two-year dental hygiene program, a Masters and PhD in oral biology, and residency/fellowship curricula of various lengths (1-6 years) across nine programs.
  - *Research*: These activities include basic science (wet labs), pre-clinical research (animal related research), computational (dry labs), clinical research involving human subjects, and training Masters, PhD students and post-doctoral fellows.
  - *Clinical Operations*: These activities have a two-pronged purpose that includes: 1) providing dental services to the community in need; and 2) creating a teaching environment for our residents and students to meet the course requirements of clinical courses.
- The School of Dental Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh is fully committed to following the Healthcare Standards and Guidelines and the Personnel Standards and Guidelines as set forth by the University, alongside the recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Director of Health in Allegheny County. Some examples of expectations include, but are not limited to the following:
  - Wear face coverings in the presence of any other individual, and in full accordance with the University's Standards and Guidance on PPE, Face Coverings and Hygiene
  - Adhere to all physical distancing, safety, and hygiene signage
  - Use physical barriers or maintain six feet of physical distance while engaging with others
  - Clean personal and office spaces at the beginning and end of work period

### II. Functions in Each Operational Posture

#### *Outline*

#### 1. High Risk Posture

- a. Administrative Operations

- i. What: All job responsibilities continue remotely, unless emergencies dictate otherwise for key personnel. Access will be granted on an as needed basis with approval from the dean and coordination with the building manager.
    - ii. How: Work accomplished through remote access to files and computers and through computer-based remote meetings (e.g. Zoom).
    - iii. Who: Executive leadership and support for clinicians providing clinical care as needed.
    - iv. Where: Salk Complex (Hall, Annex, and Pavilion)
  - b. Teaching
    - i. What: All didactic and lecture courses offered remotely. Preclinical courses delayed or re-formatted. Small group activities and presentations that can be completed remotely will be offered. Exams are remote.
    - ii. How: Lecture courses are offered as either synchronous, asynchronous or hybrid courses using computer-based technology. Clinical teaching as noted in “d” below.
    - iii. Who: Essential personnel to include educational technology staff (1 or 2) and academic affairs leadership (1) as needed.
    - iv. Where: Salk Complex
  - c. Research
    - i. What: Any job responsibilities that can continue remotely may remain remote. Following the University’s research standards and guidelines, Wet laboratory will continue essential activities as identified by the PI and approved by the Associate Dean of Research. Computational research will continue remotely. Clinical research involving human subjects will revert to remote study visits when possible, and otherwise will be paused. Only critical animal or sample related research will be allowed.
    - ii. How: Following University guidelines as well as CDC, PA Department of Health and others, small teams of researchers, limited to minimal workforce at any given time per floor.
    - iii. Who: ~25 authorized faculty, staff, students.
    - iv. Where: Salk Complex and Bridgeside Point 1.
  - d. Clinical Operations (see Appendix A, COVID Reentry Protocol, Dental Medicine August 6, 2020)
    - i. What: Patient care following guidelines provided by the PA Department of Health, CDC, OSHA and others.
    - ii. How: Patient care teams will work to provide service to the community, while following the guidelines of the PA Department of Health, CDC, OSHA and others.
    - iii. Who: The size of patient care teams will consist of clinical faculty, staff, residents and students and will be driven by the service needs of the community alongside the guidelines of the PA Department of Health, CDC, OSHA and others.
    - iv. Where: Salk Complex

## **2. Elevated Risk Posture**

- a. Administrative Operations
  - i. What: Any job responsibilities that can continue remotely may remain remote. Access will be granted on an as needed basis with approval from the supervisor in coordination with the building manager.
  - ii. How: As needed work accomplished through remote access to files and computers and through computer-based remote meetings
  - iii. Who: Executive leadership and support for clinicians providing clinical care as needed.
  - iv. Where: Salk Complex
- b. Teaching
  - i. What: All lecture courses offered remotely. Preclinical courses resume in cohorts as defined guidelines in place at the time. Small group activities and presentations that can be completed remotely will be offered. Exams and assessments are remote.
  - ii. How: Lecture courses are offered as either synchronous, asynchronous or hybrid courses using computer-based remote technology. Preclinical courses resume onsite in small groups with social distancing and appropriate level PPE. Student numbers do not exceed guidelines for gatherings. Clinical teaching as noted in “d” below.
  - iii. Who: Educational technology staff (1 or 2) and academic affairs leadership (1-2) as needed. Faculty course directors, lab instructors, and administrative staff support as needed (~50) to provide onsite instruction, with approximately 4 instructors/half-day lab session and 1-3 administrative staff support/day.
  - iv. Where: Salk Complex
- c. Research
  - i. What: Any activities that can continue remotely should remain remote. In-person research activities to resume following the University of Pittsburgh Research Standards and Guidelines (preclinical as well as research involving human subjects) as well as CDC, PA department of health and others.
  - ii. How: Restart plans for research will continue as in high risk, though CCR and CCDG will resume operations in accordance with their research plans. De-densified teams will be able to resume activities in the laboratories and clinical research involving human subjects can resume.
  - iii. Who: ~50 personnel (faculty/staff, students and post-doctoral fellows)
  - iv. Where: Salk Complex and Bridgeside Point 1.
- d. Clinical Operations (see Appendix A, COVID Reentry Protocol, Dental Medicine August 6, 2020)
  - i. What: Patient care following guidelines provided by the PA Department of Health, CDC, OSHA and others.
  - ii. How: Patient care teams will work to provide service to the community, while following the guidelines of the PA Department of Health, CDC, OSHA and others.
  - iii. Who: The size of patient care teams will consist of clinical faculty, staff, residents and students and will be driven by the service needs of

the community alongside the guidelines of the PA Department of Health, CDC, OSHA and others.

iv. Where: Salk Complex

### 3. Guarded Risk Posture

#### a. Administrative Operations

i. What: Any job responsibilities that can continue remotely may remain remote. Access will be granted on an as needed basis with approval from the supervisor in coordination with the building manager.

ii. How: As needed work accomplished through remote access to files and computers and through computer-based remote meetings

iii. Who: Executive leadership and support for clinicians providing clinical care as needed.

iv. Where: Salk Complex

#### b. Teaching

i. What: Lecture courses offered as hybrid between remote and onsite. Preclinical courses resume in cohorts as defined by guidelines in place at the time. Cohorts will remain as in the Elevated Risk Posture but may change if capacity can be increased to provide additional lab or clinical experiences. Small group activities and presentations that can be completed remotely will be offered. Most exams remote; if approved by the dean, an exam can be offered onsite in de-densified environment.

ii. How: Lecture courses are offered as either synchronous, asynchronous or hybrid courses with partial onsite classes using a combination of multiple classrooms not to exceed space capacity as determined by the University and computer-based remote technology. Preclinical courses resume onsite in labs not to exceed space capacity as determined by the University and using appropriate level PPE. Clinical teaching as noted in “d” below.

iii. Who: Educational technology staff (2) and academic affairs leadership (1-2) as needed; faculty course directors, lab instructors, and administrative staff support as needed (~100)

iv. Where: Salk Complex

#### c. Research

i. What: Any activities that can continue remotely should remain remote. Full research activities can resume.

ii. How: Social distancing and face covering requirements remain. Traffic patterns in the laboratories altered to limit interaction. Human participant visits for studies will continue according to University guidelines. In person laboratory meetings can resume as long as they follow current guidelines using social distancing and other relevant recommendations.

iii. Who: ~ 70 personnel (faculty/staff, students and post-doctoral fellows)

iv. Where: Salk Complex and Bridgeside Point 1

#### d. Clinical Operations (see Appendix A, COVID Reentry Protocol, Dental Medicine August 6, 2020)

- i. What: Patient care following guidelines provided by the PA Department of Health, CDC, OSHA and others.
- ii. How: Patient care teams will work to provide service to the community, while following the guidelines of the PA Department of Health, CDC, OSHA and others.
- iii. Who: The size of patient care teams will consist of clinical faculty, staff, residents and students and will be driven by the service needs of the community alongside the guidelines of the PA Department of Health, CDC, OSHA and others.
- iv. Where: Salk Complex

### III. Transitions between Operational Postures

As the environment shifts, the University's Senior Leadership Team will make determinations about when the University's operational posture must also shift to either more or less restricted.

Administrative Operations: In the **High Risk Posture**, the Dean will communicate to all personnel that administrative personnel access to the building will be on an emergency basis. The Dean will approve access of administrative personnel to the facility through the building manager. When moving **to or from the Elevated and Guarded Risk Postures**, any job responsibilities that can continue remotely may remain remote. Access will be granted on an as needed basis with approval from the supervisor in coordination with the building manager. Should the University revert to the **High Risk Posture**, the Dean will communicate to all personnel that administrative personnel access to the building will return to an emergency basis, and he will approve access of these administrative personnel to the facility through the building manager.

Teaching: In the **High Risk Posture**, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will communicate to the faculty, staff, and students that all student didactic classroom functions will be moved to a virtual platform. Pre-clinical learning will follow University density expectations and other standards and guidance; and clinical teaching will follow the plan outlined in the Clinical Operations section. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will also ensure facilities personnel will proceed with proper disinfection and adherence to Pitt Health Rules related to pre-clinical activity. When moving to a **decreased Risk Posture**, at least one week before implementation, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will communicate the changes to density requirements and of the plan to transition an appropriate portion of the curriculum to the classroom, while expanding pre-clinical onsite opportunities when able. All communications will be to the faculty, staff, residents, and students.

Research: In the **High Risk Posture**, the Associate Dean for Research will communicate to the research faculty, staff, and students the limited access to the laboratories, the cessation of clinical research involving human subjects unless they are performed remotely and ensure the implementation of the University's research standards and guidelines. When moving to a **decreased Risk Posture**, at least one week before implementation, the Associate Dean for Research will communicate the changes in expanding the research activities and clinical research involving human subjects.

Clinical Operations: The clinical operations of the school are primarily driven by community patient need (alongside University standards and guidelines and the recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, OSHA, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Director of Health in Allegheny County). University Postures related to clinical operations will also be followed. All expectations regarding clinical operations will be communicated by the Senior Associate Dean for Clinical and Faculty Affairs to all faculty, staff, residents, and students.

The Dean will lead the Senior Leadership Team who will offer input to responses to shifts in University Risk Postures. This Team will include the Executive Committee, consisting of the Senior Associate Dean, all other Associate Deans, the Director of Administration, and the Director of Facilities. Decisions will be driven by University standards and guidelines and the recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), OSHA, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Director of Health in Allegheny County. Communication will occur through remote meetings (Zoom), website, social media, and email.

#### **IV. Stakeholder Outreach**

As noted above, the Dean will discuss key decisions regarding shifting Risk Postures with the Executive Committee and the Dean's Council as needed. All meetings will be in Zoom when able and only in person if needed, in compliance with the University's expectations regarding gathering limitations.

The Senior Associate Dean for Clinical and Faculty Affairs will engage the Clinical Affairs Council and the Infection Control Committee when communicating factors related to shifting Risk Postures in the areas of Clinical Operations and Administrative Operations. The Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs will drive communication of any necessary messaging to patients related to shifting Risk Postures and/or recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), OSHA, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Director of Health in Allegheny County.

The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the Associate Dean for Student Affairs will work alongside their respective teams to include the Curriculum Committee to execute plans related to resident and student teaching when Risk Postures are modified.

The Associate Dean for Research will work with the Dean, Executive Committee, and Research Committee when communicating factors related to shifting Risk Postures in the area of research.

#### **V. Monitoring and Amendment**

The head of each activity area is responsible for monitoring compliance with their activity area plan.

The Senior Associate Dean for Clinical and Faculty Affairs will be responsible for monitoring compliance in the areas of Clinical Operations and Administrative Operations.

The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the Associate Dean for Student Affairs will be responsible for monitoring compliance in the areas of resident and student teaching.

The Associate Dean for Research will be responsible for monitoring compliance in the area of research.

Any changes to this activity area plan must be reviewed by the Dean of Dental Medicine and approved by the Senior Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences.