
All,

To keep you informed of new developments and their implications for the ColoradoSPH with the COVID-19 in progress, we will be issuing a weekly “ColoradoSPH Internal Operations & Updates Report” each Wednesday. The school will also continue to send other communications as the situation warrants.

Currently, all three of our universities—CU Anschutz, CSU, and UNC—have moved to online course instruction and remote work arrangements, except for critical personnel. In addition, all events have been moved online or canceled. You can find information on working and teaching remotely, as well as all of the information below on our Coronavirus: ColoradoSPH Updates website.

Required Forms

- All CU Anschutz faculty and staff who are working from home are required to complete the CU Employee Remote Work Form
- All ColoradoSPH students or CU Anschutz employees who believe they have contracted COVID-19 are asked to complete the COVID-19 Self-Report Form*

* In order to keep our campus as safe as possible, we are asking anyone exposed to submit this secure form. Because our local health departments are inundated and unable to track cases, we are trying to gather this information in order to provide support for individuals and to understand the impact that COVID-19 has on our campus community as we develop plans for campus operations.

HIPAA applies to protected health information that is shared by someone other than a patient with a third party without the patient’s consent. HIPAA does not apply to communications from a patient to someone else, like a school or an employer. However, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires employers that collect medical information from employees to keep such information confidential. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and CDC coronavirus guidance indicate that, while it may be necessary to collect medical information from employees about their conditions, employee confidentiality must be maintained.

Essential Hiring Only

Among the many consequences of the COVID-19 epidemic is a pause on all but essential hiring, given the fiscal uncertainties consequent to the epidemic. Approval is needed for all hires from Terri Carrothers via a request that I will approve and submit if warranted. Please provide sufficient rationale to demonstrate that a position is indeed an "essential" hire in your unit.

Purchasing While Working at Home

Due to the remote working requirement, employees may have requests for office supplies that can’t be delivered to the university but are needed for employees to operate at home. Please review this document that provides the process for ordering supplies and how to receive reimbursement. Please contact Peter Hahn with questions. All units should maintain a list of COVID-19 related expenses.

Research Guidance

The CU Anschutz Medical Campus has created a research guidance webpage for questions and information about research activities during the COVID-19 outbreak. In addition to these resources, employees conducting research should check with the institutions to which they are applying for funding or from which they receive funding, such as the National Institutes of Health or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. If you have any questions related to research guidance, please contact Associate Dean for Research Cathy Bradley.

Student Volunteer Opportunities

Lisa Miller is taking the lead on an initiative to connect our students to volunteer opportunities where they can both learn and be helpful. Details will be completed by the end of this week and more information will be forthcoming.

Mental Health & Self-Care

We have a number of resources on our website. I would like to call attention to the resources offered by our Population Mental Health and Wellbeing program. The health consequences of COVID-19 are wide-reaching and much more than an infectious illness. Requirements for social distancing and “sheltering in place” and the frightening uncertainty we are all experiencing can affect our mental health and wellbeing. Please take care of yourselves and your loved ones and stay well.

Until next week,

Jonathan Samet, MS, MD
Dean, Colorado School of Public Health

These resources and other news updates can be found online at the ColoradoSPH Coronavirus website.