

## Helen Clark

---

**From:** Medical Director of Teaching  
**Sent:** 11 March 2020 11:42  
**Subject:** For staff info: Update to BSc Hons Students regarding placements

Dear all staff,

Again, we thought you might be interested in the below message circulated to all our BSc (Hons) Medicine students this morning: Please note that due to the way the ScotGEM placements are staffed these are currently continuing as normal, but we have made the decision to pause our BSc Hons placements to relieve any potential burden on our NHS colleagues at this time of preparing/planning.

All other scheduled teaching proceeding as planned at present.

As per usual, please direct any students with related concerns to [medsupport@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:medsupport@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Best wishes,  
Alun

---

Title: Coronavirus information and cancellation of BSc placements this week

Dear BSc students

The decision has been made to cancel clinical placements for the BSc for the rest of this week (i.e. If you have a placement scheduled for Thursday or Friday please do not attend). Please instead use this time as a period of self-directed study. We would like to reassure you that this is not due to any change in Health Protection Scotland guidance, but is to free up our NHS colleagues from teaching at a time when they need to plan and prepare for the current Coronavirus outbreak. We will reassess placements over the Spring break and, where possible, reschedule placements in the future.

I am sure you will support this decision and our NHS colleagues.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of travel advice regarding Coronavirus. Useful information is available from the University's page on Coronavirus <https://news.st-andrews.ac.uk/novel-coronavirus/> and the UK Government's foreign travel advice <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice> You are regarded as healthcare workers and additionally must follow HPS "Guidance for healthcare providers – healthcare workers returning from risk areas" available through the following link <https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/covid-19/>, recognising the situations when self-isolation may be required and the potential impact of this on your studies.

We would further like to reassure you that we, as a School and University, have detailed contingency plans and the number of cases in Scotland is small. These measures are preventative to best protect our students and the public. We also recognise that this is a changing situation and it is particularly important that you check your emails regularly for any announcements.

If you have any queries/concerns please contact the School of Medicine student support team on [medsupport@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:medsupport@st-andrews.ac.uk)