

Helen Clark

From: Medical Director of Teaching
Sent: 12 March 2020 14:09
Subject: Staff update on COVID-19 communication to students and training opportunities

Dear all Med School Staff,

Again, just to keep you all updated on communication sent to students, decisions made on current teaching and on some training resources available online and in person next week:

Below the line is the email sent to Year 1 and 2 ScotGEM students today regarding their teaching. We will be communicating plans to all students (including the BSc Hons and MSc Health Psychology students) during Spring Break, but as ScotGEM continues over the two weeks of spring break we needed to release this information to them in a timely way. It's in line with our approach on the BSc re: placements.

In addition, we have suspended MSc Health Psychology secondary care placements during Spring Break too, and we have also suspended the use of simulated and volunteer patients at present and will review this in two weeks' time.

Please also see below information about training sessions for 'working from home' and 'preparing to teach remotely' provided by the central University: You can either attend in person or click on the link to join remotely. You can also go back and watch any of the sessions at any point after broadcast by clicking the related link.

The IT service desk can assist with any technical problems itservicedesk@st-andrews.ac.uk as can our medhelpdesk@st-andrews.ac.uk

Working from home

Tuesday, 17 March 17 2020, IRVINE LECTURE THEATRE

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (1 hour)

[Join live event \(MS Teams\)](#)

You can see the presentation from earlier in the week by clicking the link: [Join live event](#) (MS Teams) The presentation starts at 5mins 15secs into the recording.

Tuesday, 10 March 10 2020

Preparing to teach remotely

Friday 13 March 2020, PURDIE THEATRE A (Chemistry)

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (1 hour)

[Join live event](#) (Panopto)

Thursday 19 March 2020, IRVINE LECTURE THEATRE

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (1 hour)

[Join live event](#) (Panopto)

You can see the presentation from yesterday by clicking the link [Join live event](#) (Panopto)

Wednesday 11th March – 2pm

Please continue to check your emails as we update you on our plans, and refer to Solas and Galen for any changes to scheduled teaching.

Best wishes,

ScotGEM has specific plans to preserve teaching and assessments as far as circumstances allow with an increasing shift towards virtual delivery, withdrawal from clinical environments and potentially university closure. This is different from the BSc students as your GCM based teaching is a core component of the course structure. To optimise your chances of completing coursework and assessments please take all precautions to avoid risk of illness or need for self-isolation, including travel, given the potential impact of this on your studies. Until further notice please note the following guidance:

- If you feel unwell do not attend any teaching and seek advice as per current NHS policy via your GP or NHS111.
- Students who believe they may be immunosuppressed are asked to identify themselves via student support so the school can arrange a risk assessment and guide them on attending clinical placements. You should contact medsupport@scotgem.ac.uk
- All ScotGEM students are expected to follow the up to date Coronavirus guidance from University from <https://news.st-andrews.ac.uk/novel-coronavirus/>
- Up-to-date travel information is available from the UK Government's foreign travel advice <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>
- Note, if attending clinical areas, 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/>
 - Board guidance on attending clinical areas as a student, including seeking occupational health locally guidance of required.

Specifically

Re Year 1

- GCM teaching is scheduled to continue till w/c 3rd June.
- We are planning to continue CBL within the medical school or virtually if required. Do not attend your GCM practice until further notice.
- CLIC sessions will continue as planned, however without simulated patients (we will use scripts as case-based discussion instead).

Re Year 2

- The Agents of Change block should not involve clinical patient contact but individual projects will be reviewed as required. Discuss with your GCM.
- PJ/EC - Clinical and Pre-hospital placements within this block may need to be cancelled but will await developments before making this decision.
- It is currently expected that you will be able complete the block after the holidays using simulation in local simulation facilities in region.

Re Assessment

- Many options are being worked up that should allow you to complete your assessments largely as planned but of course events may overtake us.
- Arrangements are being sought that, if necessary, could allow you to provisionally progress into the following year pending deferred assessment at a suitable time.

These are challenging times and I trust this will reassure you that the School and University, have detailed contingency plans and that all reasonable steps are being taken to minimise disruption to your studies. The number of cases in Scotland is currently small but please look after yourselves and do what you can to continue your studies safely.

This is a changing situation and it is particularly important that you check your emails regularly for any announcements.

Jon Dowell

Programme Director

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ScotGEM
Scottish Graduate Entry Medicine



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