

March 24, 2020

TULANE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

In view of the continuing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the recent Department of Health notice of March 21st and the Governor's proclamation of March 22nd, we are issuing the following guidelines for all School of Medicine faculty, staff, residents and students.

CLINICAL Activities

The Department of Health has mandated, effective immediately, that all medical and surgical procedures shall be postponed until further notice, with the following exceptions:

- Medical and surgical procedures in order to treat an emergency medical condition, i.e., acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain, psychiatric disturbances and/or symptoms of substance abuse) such that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in:
 - {a) Placing the health of the individual (or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child) in serious jeopardy;
 - {b) Serious impairment to bodily functions; or
 - {c) Serious dysfunction of bodily organs.
- Medical and surgical procedures done to avoid further harms from underlying condition or disease.

The Department has directed that all healthcare providers transition all in-person healthcare services to a telehealth mode of delivery, when medically appropriate and when the same standard of care can be met as an in-person visit. All healthcare providers must postpone all in-person healthcare services that can safely be postponed for 30 days. Providers shall make a determination about the appropriateness of telehealth on a case-by-case basis, using their best medical judgment within the scope of their license. Providers may encounter legitimate and valid barriers to telehealth delivery and may not be able to shift all services to telehealth. Providers acting in good faith shall not be found to be in violation of this directive.

RESEARCH Activities

While research activities of the University and SOM are mission critical and are continuing, department chairs and leadership must maximize the opportunities for faculty and personnel to work from home.

Continuing in-house research and laboratory activities must be performed such that social distancing guidelines are strictly adhered to.

In person meetings of more than 10 persons are prohibited, and all meetings must adhere to social distancing guidelines.

Faculty, postdoctoral fellows, staff, and students performing tasks that can be done from home, must be able to do so, should they prefer.

New clinical research studies that are not COVID-19 related, can move through the approval process as per the March 16th guidelines but cannot be initiated until Monday April 23rd; except if approved by the Dean's office (email mlampp@tulane.edu).

Thank you for all you are doing during this critical time for the School and University.

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