



Tulane University School of Medicine Message from the Dean

8 January 2021

This week, the City announced a return to Modified Phase 1 status beginning Friday, January 8. To a large extent, these changes will not affect our ability to operate. The School of Medicine is considered an essential business, and the safety measures currently in place have been extremely effective. The vast majority of employees who have tested positive for COVID have been infected through community exposure, not workplace transmission. Please continue to live and work with the safety measures that we have frequently emphasized. Masking and social distancing are essential; also please strictly follow the guidelines if you have symptoms or have been exposed to COVID positive persons. Although we believe that our campus is one of the safest places to be right now, we are making some adjustments to remain compliant with the spirit of the city's restrictions

1. Clinical operations, laboratories, and clinical research units will continue with no changes. Faculty and staff working in these settings are not affected by the Phase 1 changes.
2. Student educational programs will continue as planned, with no adjustments classroom, laboratory, or clinical experiences. If this changes, we will send follow-up communications as needed.
3. Employees with administrative duties that can effectively be completed from home should be given the option of working from home for the next three weeks. No employees are required to work from home if they wish to continue working on campus.
4. The processes currently in place for employees who cannot effectively work from home but who have health or childcare issues will continue. Departments should work with their HR representatives to address these situations.
5. Meetings and gatherings must be limited to 25% of room capacity. Beginning Monday, on-campus meetings may be limited to ten people, regardless of room size. More information will be provided in the next few days.

We hope that these additional restrictions will be very limited in duration. No employee who has any symptoms of COVID or of general respiratory illness should come to campus, and should schedule testing as soon as possible. Following the guidelines will keep our campus & community safe, keep infections from spreading in the workplace, and ensure that we are able to maintain normal operations throughout the pandemic.

Lee