

**Subject:** URGENT: PLEASE READ CPH -- OPERATIONS ON MONDAY

**Date:** Sunday, March 15, 2020 at 5:29:15 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** CPH Faculty & Staff on behalf of Marsha Davis

**To:** CPH-FACSTAFF@LISTSERV.UGA.EDU

Dear Colleagues,

The COVID-19 disease outbreak has rapidly evolved over the weekend. There are now 2 confirmed cases in Athens. Area schools have closed, businesses are shutting early, and social distancing is recommended.

Today I have been on the phone with the Provost, various UGA Deans, and VPs. Several updates to be made from those conversations:

- UGA remains open and operations are to continue with the exception of UGA instruction which has been suspended for two weeks.
- Our business continuity plan was due to be completed by March 20<sup>th</sup>, but we are now faced with implementation prior to its completion. This plan will outline all the essential functions at the College and those responsible to complete them during an emergency or disaster such as this. We are still identifying the essential tasks and duties and who would need to be available to come to campus to perform them. I have a conference call with the Provost, Deans, and VPs about those plans tomorrow at 11. Please be patient as these plans are constantly changing in response to our changing environment.
- In each of our units, we will need to keep a list of who is teleworking, where you will be teleworking from, and the tasks you will be working on when in the remote location. Please communicate with your supervisor these items. Supervisors, please communicate this information to Tina who will keep a master list.

In light of all of this, it is prudent that the College of Public Health take steps to assure the safety of our faculty, staff, students, and the broader Athens community.

- Effective Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, faculty and staff should work remotely, where appropriate, and continue to fulfill your duties and responsibilities from an off-site location with input and guidance from their supervisors. If you are identified as an essential staff member for essential tasks by your supervisor, your supervisor will be in touch to discuss this with you.
- Faculty and Staff are allowed on campus in a limited fashion, in their office should you desire to be there, to pick up things, check your voicemail, prepare content, etc. Our IT group will be in on Monday and assist you in any way regarding computer and computer equipment. And after that, they, too, will be working remotely and will be able to assist you.
- Please don't come onto campus if you or a member of your family is sick. When you are on campus, please practice social distancing

We should be clear-eyed about the risk, but we should not panic. It is essential for us to be seen as public health and policy leaders during this time. Dare I quote Apollo 13 again and say that "this could be our finest hour"....

We should help others understand the impact of decisions that affect us all, but particularly the vulnerable populations. Defeating this epidemic must be a whole society effort. This pandemic has exposed more failures in our system and issues remaining to be addressed -- limitations of our health care system, the politics of health, how science is dismissed, the gaping digital and health literacy divide, income instability, discrimination, food insecurity, among others. But the crisis has also illuminated what is right -- health care workers putting their lives at risk to help others, neighbors reaching out to help, and so many more that are caring for others.

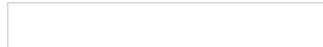
As we work in these uncertain and challenging moments, I would like to say again what a privilege it is to be part of this College. Thank you for all you do, every day, but especially in these days, to move us to our goal of improving the health of all. We will get through this. And my hope is that we emerge stronger, healthier, more equitable, and more united.

Please take care and stay well,  
Marsha

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College of Public Health