

Subject: Message from CPH Dean Marsha Davis

Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 at 3:52:19 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: CPH Undergrad Students on behalf of College Of Public Health

To: CPH-UNDERGRADS@LISTSERV.UGA.EDU

Dear College of Public Health Students,

I wanted to take a moment to reach out to you to share some important updates about the remaining weeks of the semester, but also to share how proud I have been of how the CPH community is responding to the coronavirus pandemic.

Since January, a number of our faculty have been providing context and insight on coronavirus to Georgia, national, and international news media:

- Dr. José Cordero is providing helpful guidance to families on how to prepare for quarantine and how to take steps to prevent transmission of COVID-19.
- Dr. Curt Harris has been on hand to explain how local healthcare systems prepare for an infectious disease outbreak.
- Dr. Zhuo “Adam” Chen has provided insight into the economic impacts of China’s outbreak and now implications for the U.S. economy.

In addition, our faculty are contributing to ongoing research and community outreach efforts:

- Dr. Andreas Handel joined UGA’s Coronavirus Working Group, lending his infectious disease modelling expertise to a group of 20 data scientists tracking the outbreak.
- Dr. Grace Bagwell Adams is leveraging data she has gathered through a county-wide population health surveillance project she has led over the past five years. The information she’s provided will guide policy actions from local elected officials.
- Finally, Dr. Bagwell Adams and I are serving on UGA’s Task Force on COVID-19, with a role focused on supporting our local community response to COVID-19.

I know that independent of your classes or internships, many of you have been working to contribute to the coronavirus response. I cannot express how your commitment to service, which is at the heart of our field, inspires me.

This week, we are hosting a COVID-19 Virtual Hackathon to further support our communities by bringing together the expertise and energy of our students across all degree programs to develop public health messages for Georgians to help us all stay safe and healthy in these difficult times.

If you have not yet signed up, but would like to, you can do so here: <https://publichealth.uga.edu/event/covid-19-virtual-hackathon/>

In the coming weeks, our leadership teams are working diligently to find alternative plans for the remainder of our Spring events and celebrations. We appreciate your patience as we find the best way forward.

In addition, our faculty are working hard to get all of our spring courses transitioned for remote learning [starting next Monday](#). If you have concerns with accessing your course or problems with broadband access, please contact your instructors and let them know. The University has options to help students with access and we can help connect you with UGA's Division of Academic Enhancement.

Our communications team has curated a resources webpage for the CPH community, including resources for students transitioning into online classes next week. This page can be found here: <https://publichealth.uga.edu/coronavirus/>

We are at the beginning of a long road, but CPH is here to support you. My “virtual” door is always open, so please do not hesitate to reach out if you need anything.

Take care all,

Dean Marsha Davis

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Dean and Professor

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