

## **Guide for Student Activities while Social Distancing**

### **Overview**

Given our current understanding of the COVID-19 virus, Student Group and co-curricular activity will be limited by the same restrictions as curriculum. Despite this, we believe that student groups and the community-building space they provide are vital components to our students' success at the School of Medicine. To that end, we are providing this guide as a starting point for student group leaders to think about how groups can still provide these important opportunities for pursuing co-curricular interests, and building community and a sense of belonging for new students entering the medical school.

### **Tips for Online/Socially Distant Events**

Concerning *on-campus activities* please refer to the Learner Re-Entry Guidelines that the taskforce has set forth. Please also take time to review the [Return to Campus Guidelines Mandatory Training Module Announcement](#). Given these guidelines, we anticipate that almost all student activities will have to take place in online formats in order to mitigate potential spread of infection. Below are some tips to consider to better structure these gatherings.

#### **Online/Zoom Meetings**

- Create an agenda for the meeting and share it with participants either before or at the start of the meeting
  - Zoom meetings can be chaotic and disorderly if someone is not managing the room, and sharing the agenda can prime participants to stick to the program
- Use randomly assigned breakout rooms in Zoom for icebreakers and allowing quieter members to talk in small-group settings of 2-5 people
- Pre-assign breakout rooms when possible
- Host an event that engages people to promote wellness and belonging simultaneously
  - Examples include: Check-ins, ice-breakers, physical movement

#### **Outdoors and In-Person Meetings\***

- In-Person Meetings indoors, on OR off campus, will only be allowed if meeting in person is required to meet an educational and/or specific objective.
- In some cases you will be able to host meetings or activities in person, outdoors. If this is done you must adhere to the following guidelines:
  - Standard social distancing of 6ft or more between individuals must be adhered.
  - All attendees should be masked
  - Food is not permitted.
  - Events must comply with current Department of Health rules in the [City](#) or [County](#) in which the event will take place.

\*Emerging research on COVID-19 indicates that outdoor activities, when done with proper social distancing, are not as significant a risk for transmitting infection. In China, a review of 1,245 COVID-19 cases found that only two cases were results of outdoor transmission. Marty Makary of the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health notes that outdoor environments are significantly safer than indoor ones, where respiratory transmission is much more easily facilitated. Further, public health experts are encouraging people to get outdoors to combat negative effects associated with sheltering in place and social isolation.

#### Office of Medical Student Affairs – Student Group Spending restrictions

- All university sponsored (paid) travel is suspended for the foreseeable future. (This is true for students, faculty, and staff alike). Virtual conference attendance is allowable and should be submitted for approval.
- Social Expenses (\*note-all social expense has been eliminated from operational budgets for faculty and staff)
  - Student social expenses should be event-based, structured, adhere to current COVID guidance, and submitted for approval.
  - Requests should be submitted to Andy Wiegert with an explanation of the event, a requested budget, and how it will occur with current physical distancing guidelines
    - Submitted requests will be forwarded to Cole Schulte for review and approval
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- No food will be allowed (covered) for virtual meetings. Any request for food for in-person meetings will need to be approved case-by-case

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