

From: Thomas Genuit
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 9:19 AM
Subject: COVID - Procedures for Residents

All,

As you know COVID-19 is in Palm Beach County - several hospitals had their first positive patients and resources are being taxed.

As residents, you play an essential role in providing patient care during this crisis. In order to limit spread and protect each and every one of you, our families, as well as our patients, we need to adopt the highest level of vigilance and personal protection.

- 1) **Please read the hospital/FAU update emails** as they are distributed to you by your program directors and be sure to follow the policies/procedures and guidelines each institution has put in place; **periodically check out the [CDC](#), [Florida Health](#) and [FAU COM COVID](#) websites** for the newest information on the disease.
- 2) **Wash hands frequently; use PPE whenever appropriate, and limit the number of people entering rooms to what is absolutely necessary.** For patients under suspicion for COVID or test positive patients, please limit room entry to 1 [one] resident at a time - that resident should wear full PPE for droplet and surface contamination [hat, mask, gown, gloves] - ideally such materials are available and should be donned and taken off outside of the room and be disposed in bio-hazard disposal. Please use the alcohol hand sanitizer when entering in and out of the room; in addition you should wash your hands after entering a potential COVID environment. Do not wear your white coat into a potential COVID room. Do NOT wear hospital attire outside of the hospital or take it home. If there is a chance that your scrubs may have gotten in contact with surfaces or the patient in a potential COVID room, please change as soon as possible.
- 3) **If you experience symptoms** that could be related to influenza or COVID, **please let your program director know immediately and self-isolate.** There are several options to be evaluated and receive care:
 - 1) the **Baptist website and app [Care on Demand]** will get you quick access to an online physician assessment and screening, to determine if you should undergo viral testing: Baptist Care on Demand [get care now] website - you can find it at BRRH.com - click the see a doctor now link at the top of the page - follow the instructions to sign up and see a doctor online. State that you are a FAU/Baptist resident and use the code CARE19 -the initial visit/screening is free.

In addition, our **FAU faculty practice [Dr. Berkowitz]** is prepared to see you in the office in the Galen building on 880 NW 13th Street, Boca Raton, FL, 33486. To arrange such evaluation, please notify your program director. Your program director will reach out to Dr. Berkowitz, who will make every effort to see you within 24 hours.

Please do NOT go to the hospital employee health office. If you have more severe symptoms you may go

directly to the emergency room, but this should NOT be the first step if you think you have been exposed or to get testing.

As **additional resources** you may call the **Baptist Hotline** [786-596-2345] and/or the **Florida Department of Health COVID-19 Call Center** [866-779-6121]

- 4) **Please avoid any travel** and discuss any travel that cannot be postponed with your program director. If you must travel overseas, you must complete the FAU attestation; if that travel takes you to level 2 or 3 health monitoring countries you may be required to self-isolate for at least 14 days and obtain medical clearance before returning to work. The ACGME and specialty boards are currently issuing their guidelines for time missed due to illness of self-isolation - it appears that the general stance will be to not hold such absences against the training requirements of individual residents. We will update you as definitive information becomes available.

The situation remains highly fluid - If you have any questions or specific concerns, please feel free to reach out to your program director and/or the GME office.

Please be safe.

Sincerely,

T. Genuit, MD, MBA, FACS

Interim DIO, Graduate Medical Programs