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**From:** Dela Cruz, Joan B  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2020 2:44 PM  
**To:** faculty.radiology@uth.tmc.edu; staff.radiology@uth.tmc.edu;  
radiology.res@uth.tmc.edu; Radiology.Fellows@uth.tmc.edu; Surguy, Petra M  
**Subject:** \*\*DII Updates - Coronavirus\*\*  
**Attachments:** february-2020-hipaa-and-novel-coronavirus.pdf  
**Importance:** High

# DII Updates - Coronavirus



## March 13, 2020 COVID 19 update

Dr. John would like to remind everyone to please follow the HIPAA Privacy Rules and Guidance, even in face of the coronavirus pandemic. Please see attached document which is a bulletin from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services describing the current guidelines.

The following changes have been announced by UTHealth and our hospitals over the past 12 hours. Our departmental specific actions are in yellow:

1. McGovern Medical School is shifting to online and virtual classes on Monday.  
**DII is also changing to teleconferencing for teaching conferences, lectures, journal clubs, etc. Some noon conferences may be cancelled if the lecturer is not available.**
2. Visiting residents and fellows who are already here and are on-boarded will be allowed to continue their rotation, as long as their home institution allows it.  
**DII will follow the same protocol.**
3. Residents and fellows will continue to care for patients as needed. Trainees who are pregnant or immunocompromised or have serious health conditions should discuss their health concerns with the program director or the Diversity and Equal Opportunity department at 713-500-3131.  
**DII will follow the same protocol.**
4. UTHealth is considering the option of having physicians work remotely. We currently remain open for normal business.  
**DII is keeping track of staffing needs and will keep faculty and residents informed over the weekend about whether they should begin to work remotely. A critical mass of onsite radiologists is vital to ensure that we can cover necessary procedures. Faculty members who are pregnant or**

**immunocompromised should contact my office and their section chief about whether they should come in to the hospital for work.**

5. Memorial Hermann has established the **COVID-19 Community** on MH Connections. This forum enables employees and affiliated physicians to connect, and offer support and resources to each other. <https://connect.memorialhermann.org/communities/login>.
6. No changes that pertain to us from Harris Health.

Since this situation is actively evolving, we are urging all individuals to actively view the following links to stay informed:

<https://www.uth.edu/news/covid19>

<https://inside.uth.edu/>

<https://www.utpconnect.com/>

<http://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/2019-Novel-Coronavirus>

If you are **returning** from travel, please call the following number:

- Students should call [Student Health Services](#) at 713-500-5171.
- Employees should contact [Employee Health Services](#) at 713-500-3267

**Joan Dela Cruz**

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