

March 19, 2020

Health Scholars and Leaders,

First, a huge thank you to all of you for your dedication to the hospitals, medical groups, health care staff, providers and of course, the patients our health system partners serve day in and day out. The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has created an unprecedented pressure on health care in general as well as a clear risk for Health Scholars and anyone else caring for COVID-19 patients or those who have been exposed.

We wanted to write to each of you to reiterate some of the information that we have been reviewing in the town halls this week as well as our communication via CORE ELMS, COPE Connect, COPE Health Scholars website and social media.

The safety of Health Scholars, as well as of course the patients and staff you support each day, is our top priority. We want to ensure it is completely clear that no Health Scholar is expected to attend the four hour on-site shifts at any of our hospital or clinic sites should he or she prefer not to at this time. There will be no negative impact on the ability to continue participating in the program at a later date should any Health Scholar feel unsafe going onsite.

We are also working to put into place some exciting remote service opportunities for Health Scholars to continue to engage and support our health system partners, including hopefully for some of that have decided not to have Health Scholars onsite temporarily, and we will be sharing more information on these opportunities soon.

For the Health Scholars who choose to continue to shift on-sites at our health system partners, protocols have been put in place at all sites to minimize risk to Health Scholars to the greatest extent possible. These include:

- No Health Scholars may enter any isolation room at any time
- No in-person events for Health Scholar, all events have been moved to virtual meetings
- Transition of the majority of leaders to remote Scholar hours while continuing to undertake leadership and administrative support of the program.

We will continue to make updates to protocols as this highly fluid situation changes and we are working closely with each of our health system partners to determine the safest practices. Again, this is a fluid situation so we expect protocols and opportunities to continue changing frequently.

We will continue to hold town halls, virtual office hours and make sure to update CORE ELMS and COPE Connect to keep everyone informed and provide a platform for you to ask questions. We hope that, even if you were to take a leave from the program, you will stay in communication with us.

Again, thank you so much for your dedication and feel free to let us know if you have any questions. We extend our best wishes for health and wellness to you, your families and friends.

Sincerely,

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