



Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science

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7/3/20—COVID-19 UPDATE ON POSTPONING THE RETURN TO CAMPUS FOR CLASSES 161 AND 162

Please be advised that due to the significant surge in coronavirus cases in Allegheny County and the fact that the County Health Director has issued a one week closure of all bars and restaurants and proposed the cancellation of events over 25 people, a decision has been made that campus students will not return on Tuesday, July 7, 2020.

This decision is made out of an abundance of caution for students and school employees. It is consistent with the county order and will be reevaluated next week as the COVID-19 pandemic is an evolving situation. Therefore, students will remain in alternative delivery as scheduled, continuing with Zoom classrooms supplemented by itslearning and other forms of remote delivery.

Dean Michael Burns, the Pandemic Officer for the Institute, will issue an email reminder to all about their schedule for next week. We hope this will be just a one-week postponement in the campus return for Classes 161 and 162, but that will be decided based on the success in mitigating this spike in the virus. The Summer Non-Core 16 classes that are in alternative delivery will remain in this format as scheduled at the beginning of the term.

Clinical embalming will continue to be performed with all precautions in place, including wellness checks, universal masking at all times before and after embalming (obviously full PPE is used during the embalming operation) and all other protocols put forth in the PIMS COVID-19 Safety and Health Plan. Dean Burns will continue to advise on this practical rotation. If permitted, you may continue to perform practicum tasks and as a reminder, if you are at a funeral home that has not been visited, you may perform a virtual visit to have the site approved for BOTH Funeral Service Skills Practicum and Clinical Embalming (contact Dr. Lease regarding Practicum questions and Dean Burns for Clinical Embalming questions).

Once again, this decision to postpone is made out of an abundance of caution for your collective safety as the surge of the virus has reached critical levels in this county. We apologize for any inconvenience, but your safety is our primary concern. Updates will be provided as the situation evolves into next week, but at this point, our plan is to return to campus on Monday, July 13, 2020.

Finally, the senior class is scheduled for class photos and Dean Burns will advise on how that will take place. It is important that a gathering of this group does not exceed 25 as per delineated by the Allegheny County Health Director.

Stay safe and stay healthy!