Dear BSPS Students,

We hope you and your families are safe and healthy during this crazy time. As you know, things have rapidly changed over the past several months as the coronavirus pandemic has evolved. We are writing to provide an update, and to encourage you to contact us with any questions and concerns you have. We don’t have all the answers yet, but the entire University is working to plan for the fall.

We encourage you to follow the resources you have available to keep up to date with the University’s activities and plans for the future.

- You can easily access these at the university website: https://umich.edu/
- University leaders held a virtual town hall on May 28 you can access here: https://coronavirus.umich.edu/video-university-of-michigan-virtual-town-hall/
- The University also has a specific page for coronavirus updates you can access: https://coronavirus.umich.edu/
- The College of Pharmacy website provides additional information: https://pharmacy.umich.edu/covid-updates/bsps-students

The following highlight a few of the key points of the University’s plans and expectations for the fall:

- In an online session (link above) with faculty and staff May 28, President Mark Schlissel, Interim Provost Susan M. Collins and Simone Himbeault Taylor, Interim Vice President for Student Life, reinforced the hope that U-M students can return to campus this fall. “First, and most importantly, we are all very optimistic that the University of Michigan will have a public-health-informed, in-residence academic year with as much in-person engagement as possible that is consistent with changing guidelines and conditions and with our core mission,” Collins said.
- President Mark Schlissel said he is “cautiously optimistic” the university will be able to deliver “as much in-person instruction as possible” during the fall semester, but many questions remain about how that will be accomplished.
- University of Michigan leaders say they plan to announce a decision regarding U-M’s fall semester by the end of June, while continuing to examine how the university pursues its mission under the ongoing cloud of the coronavirus pandemic.

Also, at this point, it seems that an expectation for the fall will be that anyone coming from out of state will be expected to self-quarantine for a to be determined amount of time after arrival. This likely means arriving in Ann Arbor before classes, and potentially participating in
classes virtually for the first week or so. Details of this are not finalized as far as we know, but it is something for you to keep in mind as the University works on its public-health-informed plans for the fall. You will certainly receive additional guidance as plans evolve.

Those of you considering or planning on doing laboratory-based research in the fall are likely wondering what the future of lab-based research is. Our labs are very slowly opening up in stages with strict limitations but undergraduate researchers are not yet allowed in the labs. We are unsure how this will evolve and what lab-based research will be permitted in the fall and/or winter semesters. We know this is an important question for some of you, and we will do our best to keep you informed as we learn more.

Finally, the College of Pharmacy staff and faculty are diligently working on plans to provide the best possible academic experience for you. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us. We will do our very best to answer your questions and keep you up-to-date as plans evolve for the fall.

Have a safe and healthy summer.

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