

Memo from Interim Dean Robert L. Johnson, COVID-19 Update

Thu 4/2/2020 5:01 PM 'RWJMS_ALL@RAMS.Rutgers.edu';

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Dear Faculty, Staff and Residents:

During most of March, we planned thoughtfully and moved swiftly working hard to get ahead of the curve as we fought to also flatten the curve of the COVID-19 pandemic. That planning effort which has proven successful, thanks to all of you, seemed understandably--a bit frenzied.

As an organization we have now entered into the next stage, as our faculty and staff execute our plan of action in a calm, rational, caring way. Each day we work to become the best version of ourselves collectively and individually; whether working on the front line with patients, organizing surge teams, performing telehealth visits or helping a colleague stay strong during these difficult times.

Our strength is magnified though the daily work we do with our colleagues at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Together we work side-by-side, for hours on end as we tackle the most challenging health threat of our generation. Together we are:

1. Forming protocols and surge teams to care for patients who are critically ill and alone;
2. Creating multiple new intensive care units and rotating our multidisciplinary teams on those units;
3. Launching a new telehealth initiative in a very short period of time;
4. Working to secure personal protective equipment; and
5. Our physicians are taking on new clinical responsibilities to meet the needs of our patients.

This fight against COVID-19 is historic and your actions are heroic. I want to thank each and every one of you for your courage, dedication and professionalism.

I am proud to be your dean.

Robert L. Johnson, MD, FAAP