A Message to Members of the MHCDS Community

The COVID-19 pandemic presents unprecedented challenges to all of us engaged in health care delivery. Many MHCDS students and alumni are leading the response to the pandemic as clinicians on the front lines, administrators deploying people and materials, and supporting specialists throughout the health care delivery system. We admire their courage in the face of enormous risk, thank them for their dedication, and stand ready to support them.

The same is true for future MHCDS students, many of whom are also confronting this crisis in their personal and professional lives. We salute their service and are flexing our admissions deadlines to allow them to take care of themselves and their patients while they prepare to apply for the MHCDS program.

Despite these challenging times, the MHCDS program’s design for on-line learning allows us to continue to pursue our academic mission, deliver a valuable educational experience, and provide timely information to all members of our community. As an example, in their Health Care Operations course over the next few weeks, we will help current MHCDS students apply tools and concepts such as process mapping, bottleneck analysis, and process improvement to the COVID-19 crisis. Discussions will include a range of timely topics, from telehealth to ethical decision-making when allocating scarce resources.

We are also continuing our online programming for the community. Alumni and friends of the program are invited to join free, publicly-available MHCDS Virtual Seminars on “Risk Communication in the Age of COVID-19” and “Communicating through the COVID-19 Crisis,” hosted by Dartmouth professors Steve Woloshin and Paul Argenti, respectively.

The urgency of this moment calls for all of us in the MHCDS community – staff, faculty, students, and alumni – to recommit to our critically important vision of the best in health care delivery, both now and in the future. We will work together to keep all of us safe and healthy.

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