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March 19, 2020

Dear Clinical Rotation Students:

Your safety and well-being is our top priority. We have been actively monitoring the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus) and implementing measures to the didactic and clinical phases of the program to help protect our students, faculty and staff.

Per the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (03/17/2020), there have been 26 positive cases of COVID-19, with 208 tests pending. There are also approximately 425 persons being monitored in NH for possible cases. Per the Vermont Health Department (3/18/2020), there are currently 19 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 246 persons being monitored for possible cases.

In an effort to protect the health and safety of clinical students, several training programs across the country (including PA programs, medical schools, and nursing schools) have canceled all clinical rotations for the time being. Given the increasing likelihood of wide community spread of infection, Franklin Pierce University has elected to do the same. These are unprecedented times which call for extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of our students who would otherwise be placed in varied clinical settings across NH, VT and the rest of the US. Therefore, all clinical rotations scheduled to start on Monday, March 23, 2020 (SCPE #3) have been put on hold. Preceptors and clinical sites (those that had not already canceled the rotation on their end) are being notified. We are hopeful that we will be able to resume clinical rotations starting April 27, 2020 (SCPE #4). We will reevaluate the situation in 3 weeks and make that decision based on the current state of public health risks at that time.

Please know that we do not make this decision lightly, and are aware there are many important factors of concern to students. The university administration is working diligently to formulate responses and plans to address those concerns. Please continue to share your concerns with us at PAClinicalYear@franklinpierce.edu so they can then be shared with the administration.

Franklin Pierce University and the MPAS Program remain committed to providing you with an excellent and complete clinical education. We must all work together to rise to the challenge of this unprecedented and rapidly changing pandemic. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we do what we can to help fight the spread of COVID-19 and to protect you--- our students.

Sincerely,

The MPAS Team