



**Office of the Provost**  
*Provost and Executive Vice  
President for Academic Affairs*

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*Toledo, Ohio 43606-3390  
419.530.2729 Phone  
419.530.4496 Fax*

*Karen.Bjorkman@utoledo.edu*

Dear Health Science Faculty and Students,

I want to take this opportunity to share with you how proud we are of all of our Health Science faculty and students who, despite the challenges, uncertainties, and difficulties associated with the adjustments and modifications we have had to make during this global pandemic, have still persisted and “carried on”!

Faculty, we appreciate your flexibility, creativity, and, most of all, your passion to do whatever is necessary to continue our educational mission of educating highly competent and well-prepared health care professionals who will fill needed roles in helping to meet the health challenges we face today and into the future. Students, we appreciate your flexibility and passion also, as you persist in “different” times toward your dream of “making a difference” in the health and well being of individuals, families, and communities in our region and throughout the world. You are needed in our healthcare systems!

We recognize the importance of direct clinical experiences in your educational trajectory and we will make every effort to maintain our health science students in these settings, even if we have to “pivot” to all online content classes. However, the health and safety of all of our students, faculty, staff, patients, and visitors will always be our first and highest priority, guiding all of our decision-making.

To mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission, with a focus on our students in skills lab and direct clinical education experiences, we are sharing with you a set of guidelines and policies that will be enacted and enforced in all of our health science programs. This guidance focuses on 3 major areas of compliance needed to maintain the health and safety of everyone: 1) infection control procedures; 2) determining and managing exposures; and 3) social distancing in clinical settings.

Following these guidelines is not optional. The policies and safety measures we describe are absolutely necessary to safeguard everyone’s health and well-being, and we will be consistently enforcing these measures. Your deans and program directors will be providing additional information specific to your program.

I wish you well as you continue toward your goal of becoming a health care professional, even through these challenging times. We are focused on your success, and can’t wait to see the impact you will have on the health of our nation and the world.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Bjorkman, PhD  
Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs