



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

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Chancellor Michael Collins
University of Massachusetts Medical School
Worcester, Massachusetts

VIA EMAIL March 25, 2020

Dear Michael,

On behalf of the 17,000 students and thousands of employees of UMass Boston, I write to express our collective gratitude for the extraordinary work your physicians, researchers, nurses, administrators and soon-to-be doctors graduating shortly are doing for the people of the Commonwealth. We recognize that you and your colleagues are on the leading edge of a terrible situation, that the health of your people (including their family members) is at risk as they work to take care of the rest of us. No one is working harder or faces more personal consequences for doing their jobs than you do.

As we listen to pronouncements coming through from various corners about the need to “get back to work” and restore the economy, we recognize how foolish such a move would be prematurely. Anyone who is reading the scientific literature or even the news coverage recognizes that it is way, way too soon to move out of the shelter in place orders (whatever they may be called in different communities) that have prudently been put in place. They are there not only to slow the rate of infection and protect the general population, but to flatten the curve in ways that will modestly lessen the burden on our health care system. Any move to create more public interaction whether in the work place or elsewhere will threaten our wellbeing, but even more importantly, yours.

I want you to know that we pay close attention to the public health experts and will continue to follow their guidance. I say this all the while knowing that the reduction in economic activity exacts its own kind of pain. First and foremost, the goal is for people to live through this. The rest will have to take care of itself.

Please convey my deepest appreciation to your staff and students. We would all be lost without you and we know that in our bones.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Katherine Newman'.

Katherine Newman
Interim Chancellor