

GME SEVERE WEATHER POLICY**UT Administrative Staff**

In the event of severe weather or hazardous road conditions, Administrative Staff in the Dean's Offices of the University of Tennessee College of Medicine - Chattanooga follow the decision of the nearby University of Tennessee Chattanooga (UTC) undergraduate campus. Typically, UTC administration announces a closure or delay for its students either the night before or morning of severe weather. If UTC is not in session, we follow decisions made by the Hamilton County Department of Education for area schools.

Individual UT College of Medicine Chattanooga Department Chairs have the discretion of closing or delaying opening for their own UT Administrative Staff. Communication within each department is also key. Use good judgment regarding road conditions and safety.

Staff are advised to listen to local news stations [ABC, CBS, and NBC] -- Comcast Cable channels 4, 10, or 13, and EPB channels 3, 9, and 12 -- the evening before and morning of severe weather regarding a decision by the UTC administration. Also, information about closings is also available on the news websites: www.newschannel9.com, www.wrcbtv.com, and www.wdef.com. Closing and delay information are also posted on the UTC website at www.utc.edu. The Hamilton County Department of Education website is www.hcde.org.

Faculty, Residents,* and Fellows

Due to the importance of continuity of care for patients in the primary teaching hospitals, Faculty, Residents, and Fellows should try to uphold their professional responsibilities to patients as long as they can safely get into the hospital or clinical assignment location. In the event that Residents/Fellows cannot safely report for duty due to road conditions, they should coordinate coverage with supervising Faculty and Chief Residents/Fellows. Residents/Fellows who cannot make it to the hospital or scheduled clinical locations should also communicate daily with their Program Directors, supervising Faculty, and other Residents/Fellows. Effective and frequent communication and cooperation are essential to ensuring efficient patient care.

Note: Clinics, practices, and offices owned by Erlanger can only be closed or delayed by Erlanger administrative representatives. For Graduate Medical Education (GME) staff paid by Erlanger, decisions about closings and delays must be made by Erlanger.

*The term "Resident" refers to both Resident and Fellow trainees.

Revised and Approved by the GMEC 5/16/2017. Administrative edits 4/8/2023.