Dear School of Medicine faculty and staff,

The freedom to vote is a cornerstone of our democracy, and Duke Health wants to make it as easy as possible for your voices to be heard.

In recent weeks, we reminded everyone of our policy that enables team members to use paid time off to exercise their civic duty, where necessary. We’ve created Duke Votes, a non-partisan resource for learning more about registration, absentee ballots, early voting, and more. And we’ve designated the Karsh Alumni and Visitors Center as one of your options for early voting, October 15-31. (Depending on your location, other sites may be more convenient for you; click here to find one-stop early voting sites in your county.)

Now, to make voting even easier, Duke Health is declaring Election Day a no-meeting day. On Tuesday, November 3, DUHS, the PDC, the School of Medicine and the School of Nursing will take a one-day pause from meetings to make it easier for everyone to get to the polls. This does not apply to routine huddles in the clinical environment, as huddles are critical to our management. Please reschedule any meetings set up for that day.

When schedules conflict with polling hours, you are responsible for requesting time off in advance to vote and working with your manager to find a time that is least disruptive to the department or to patient care. Although our standard policy offers two hours to vote, we recognize that many polling places may experience very long lines, so we have asked managers to be flexible about time needed at the polls.

Finally, we remind everyone to protect their health and that of the community by observing physical distancing and wearing a mask.

Making it easy to vote reflects our values and supports our team members in fulfilling their deep commitment to our community. We encourage everyone across Duke Health to take the three steps needed for a healthy democracy: Register, research, vote.

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