



# GEAUX GLOBAL

## Immigration Updates

### Response to COVID-19 Updates

- **USPS COVID-19-Related International Service Interruptions** (April 28, 2020): The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) expanded its temporary suspension of accepting mail destined to certain countries due to COVID-19-related interruptions such as foreign postal operator service suspensions and unavailability of transportation.
- **USCIS Extends Suspension of In-Person Services at Local USCIS Field Offices** (April 24, 2020): U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) extended its temporary suspension of routine in-person services at local USCIS field offices by 30 days, "through at least June 4." The suspension does not impact electronic filing, filing at USCIS Lockboxes or filing or adjudications at USCIS Service Centers.
- **Coronavirus Proclamation of April 22, 2020 Limits Entry of Certain Immigrants** (April 22, 2020): President Trump issued a Presidential Proclamation that suspends entry of certain new immigrants who do not already have an approved immigrant visa. The proclamation does **not** currently impact applicants for adjustment of status or nonimmigrants such as students, exchange visitors, H-1B workers, visitors for business or pleasure, etc.

### A NOTE FROM LSUHSC'S INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION:

If you are interested in running for President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Public Relations Liaison of ISA, please email them at [ISA@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:ISA@lsuhsc.edu) stating such before the 30th of May, 2020. Please include a paragraph indicating why you would be good for the position and a headshot.

**LSU Health**  
NEW ORLEANS

A monthly newsletter brought to you  
by the LSUHSC International Services Office  
May/June 2020

## Reopening NOLA

### **What will it take for New Orleans to get back to business?**

- Sustained low COVID-19 cases
- Increased testing
- Looking at available hospital capacity
- Ability to isolate new cases

### **What are the guidelines for Phase 1 of reopening?**

- All vulnerable individuals should continue to shelter in place.
  - Elderly individuals
  - Individuals with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy
- When in public, one should maximize physical distance. Gatherings of more than 10 individuals is not practical unless precautionary measures are taken.
- Minimize non-essential travel.
- When possible, and feasible, telework is encouraged.
- Return to work should be conducted in phases.
- Schools and organized youth activities should remain closed.
- Large venues (e.g., sit-down dining, movie theaters, sporting venues, places of worship) should operate under strict social distancing practices.
- Elective surgeries can resume, as clinically appropriate, on an outpatient basis at facilities that adhere to CMS guidelines.
- Gyms can open if they adhere to strict physical distancing and sanitation protocols.
- Bars should remain closed.

## DIY Face Mask & Shield

The arts and crafts store, Michael's offers instructional videos and easy access to materials online via their website [here](#). Please note face-coverings will be required at LSUHSC in public/common areas.



## International Tiger of the Month

**Dr. Maria Elena Secci**

Department of Physiology

From: Sestu, Italy

Dr. Secci grew up in Sardinia, Italy, which she considers one of the most beautiful islands in the world. Being the last child among her three sibling brothers, she has always been profoundly influenced by technology and music, but passion for science - especially behavioral neuroscience and neurology – prevailed since she was younger. She devoured all Oliver Sacks books (Awakenings and Musicophilia are her favorites), and decided to pursue a career as a biologist. She first earned a Master Degree in Neuropsychobiology (2008) and later, a PhD in Molecular Medicine (2012). Right after this experience, she was given the great opportunity to do research in the United States at the National Institute on Drug abuse in Baltimore. There, she completed a 5-years postdoctoral study in the neurochemical and behavioral effects of cannabinoids, opioids and nicotine in rodents and monkeys.

After a brief experience in Germany, she started working at LSUHSC as a Research Associate in the Department of Physiology where she currently studies the long-term effects of adolescent alcohol on pain. Her career goal is to keep working in the drug abuse field and make a major contribution to fight addiction.

Besides work, she loves playing piano and guitar, cooking elaborate dishes and spending time with her family and friends.

### **LEARN MORE ABOUT MARIA:**

#### **What made you choose LSUHSC?**

LSUHSC was my first choice among other job opportunities because of the vibrant scientific community and all the outreach activities that it offers. I absolutely enjoy being part of the Department of Physiology, which is made-up of brilliant scientists and colleagues that are so great to be surrounded by.

#### **What is your favorite place or activity in New Orleans? Why?**

As a music enthusiast, New Orleans is one of the best places to be. Needless to say that listening to jazz concerts and street musicians is genuinely something not to be missed. Besides that, I enjoy walking in the Orleanian parks and trails to watch the wildlife in action (alligators!).

#### **What are some cultural shocks or funny surprising moments that you have experienced so far?**

I thought I have seen everything shocking in the U.S. but I changed my mind after I started living in New Orleans! Since I came from a small and religious town, very (very) far from this culture, the most weird and creepy thing was seeing installations dedicated to Voodoo, such as tours in cemeteries and...I think once is enough! On the other hand, experiencing Mardi Gras and all the joy that event brings, it has been stunning!