Greetings. I'm Ellen MacKenzie, dean of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Now, first and foremost, I hope you, your family, and friends are well. These are difficult times for all of us. I can't help but think back 100 years ago when our school was first established.

The great influenza pandemic of 1918 was sweeping the world, infecting some 500 million people with an estimated 50 million deaths. And yet, even without the tools of modern medicine, public health developed and implemented strategies that helped to reduce the impact of that pandemic, and allowed cities and nations to recover.

Now, in 2020, another global pandemic looms large, but we are in a much better place today. We have learned a lot in the past 100 years, and yet there is no doubt that we will be put to the test again. When many lives are at risk, public health professionals and scientists always rise to the challenge. And you will play a critical role in our future.

You are preparing to do astonishing things and contribute to the improvement of the public's health in so many ways. Thank you for being part of this amazing community.