

# Revised Student Guidelines for Clinical Care Activities during COVID Pandemic

## Effective 11/22/20

### Prior to the start of your clerkship:

- If you have health considerations or any other concerns that may affect your participation in clerkships, please seek the advice of your physician. Reach out to Dr. Sanguino if alternate plans need to be made.
- Review PPE requirements, definitions, guidelines, and donning / doffing videos ([link to PPE videos](#) and [PPE FAQ document from NM](#)). You will be asked to sign an attestation during the clerkship orientation.
- Read the Student COVID FAQ
- Make sure your Epic Access is up to date and activated  
If you need your Epic password re-set, please contact Linda Daniels  
Pediatric students must have completed the Lurie MyLearn modules)
- Check the clerkship site on Emerg for any special requirements such as:  
Medicine – students must be credentialed for the VA  
Pediatrics – Make certain to complete the MyLearn modules

### General Policies and Requirements

- Observe universal masking guidelines (all staff, patients and visitors at each clinical affiliate will be required to wear a surgical/procedure mask at all times except when eating/drinking). You will be provided with a mask when entering NMH, Lurie Children's, JBVA, Stroger and Shirley Ryan Ability Lab). For students rotating at off-campus clinics, the clinical site (or clerkship) will supply you with the appropriate surgical/procedure masks to use.
- Participate in COVID screening procedures as required at each clinical site. You may be asked about COVID symptoms / exposures and may have your temperature taken in the same way as other caregivers.
- Observe physical distancing (6 feet) wherever possible. There may be situations such as in the Operating Room, team rooms, and patient rooms where this is not possible. All patient/operating rooms are cleaned in between uses. It is always wise to use disinfecting wipes to clean computers in common-use and to use hand sanitizer before and after. Do not eat meals in team rooms. Utilize the preferred space for eating at each clinical site.
- Make sure you wear a mask, wash your hands frequently and avoid touching your face. <https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/training/interactiveEducation/>
- Students who would like to care for COVID positive patients or patients under investigation for COVID may "Opt-In" to do so by letting the clerkship director know. This is on a purely voluntary basis. Students who prefer not to see COVID patients will in no way suffer any adverse assessment or grading consequences as a result of that decision. All patients at our clinical affiliates are tested for SARS-CoV-2 upon admission to the hospital and before elective surgical procedures. Each clerkship may have considerations or procedures unique to their clinical setting/patient populations and those will be discussed at your clerkship orientations.

In the setting of a work-place exposure, you will be notified by Infection Prevention. You must follow all testing and quarantine recommendations as advised by Infection Prevention. Please utilize the [on-line triage questionnaire](#) to help ascertain if it is a significant exposure. You may also refer to the [FSM Algorithm for COVID Exposure-Symptoms](#). If the exposure was significant, or you have any questions you, you should call the COVID hotline (312.47.COVID, 312.472.6843) and also notify your Clerkship Coordinator/Director and Dr. Sanguino. Any student with an exposure can be tested at NMH Corporate Health without incurring any costs.

- Use PPE appropriate to the clinical situation. When in doubt, ask someone. N95 masks are required only for Covid-ICU patient care and aerosol-generating procedures, not while caring for non-ICU COVID patients or general hospitalized patients. You may see some health care personnel wearing N95 masks despite these recommendations which is not consistent with our current hospital guidelines.
- Use contact and droplet precautions as clinically indicated (mask, eye protection, gown and gloves) – this can be found on the door of all patient rooms where it is indicated.

#### If you become ill

- If you have any symptoms of COVID or an ILI (influenza-like illness), you should call the COVID Hotline and follow the student health procedures outlined in the [FSM Algorithm for COVID Exposure-Symptoms](#). You may also use the [on-line triage questionnaire](#). Remain at home and contact your clerkship coordinator/director and Sandy Sanguino in AWOME.
- If you are instructed to isolate at home because of illness or exposure, your clerkship and elective directors will work with you to create virtual experiences as appropriate. You may need to make up some additional clinical time depending on what is missed during the clerkship.
- Please follow these guidelines for return to clinical activity listed in the [FSM Algorithm for COVID Exposure-Symptoms](#).
- For support, please reach out to any of the deans in AWOME, your college mentor or CAPS <https://www.northwestern.edu/caps-chicago/>.

#### Education Considerations:

- Most conferences and learning activities will be done virtually or, at times, in person with physical distancing. This will be assessed on a monthly basis and could change. Attendance is expected whether virtual or in person.
- The [clerkship attendance policy](#) has been modified to facilitate Step re-scheduling.
- Guidelines and procedures for rounding and patient sign-outs will be individualized for each clerkship and discussed at orientation. Many clerkships will incorporate telehealth platforms to enable you to participate in patient care. You may be asked to access the EHR from home; please make sure you have the appropriate software and proper encryption ( available on the [Feinberg IT home page](#)).

- The [transportation policy](#) is unchanged (VA shuttle, public transportation and shared Lyft).