Revised Student Guidelines for Clinical Care Activities during COVID Pandemic- Updated 7/30/2021

Prior to the start of your clerkship or clinical care activities:

- Review PPE requirements, definitions, guidelines, and donning/doffing videos (NM PPE videos and NM PPE FAQ document). For students on clerkships, you will be asked to sign an attestation during the clerkship orientation.
- Read the FSM Student COVID-19 FAQs
- Make sure your Epic Access is up-to-date and activated
  - If you need your Epic password re-set, please contact Linda Daniels (l-daniels2@northwestern.edu)
  - 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

- It is expected that all students are vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 unless an exemption is sought and approved. If you are exempt from vaccination, you must follow enhanced symptom-tracking, masking and testing guidelines.
- Observe universal masking guidelines in all clinical areas (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, Jesse Brown VA, 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-19 screening procedures as required at each clinical site. Students at NM sites must continue to complete the NM Symptom Tracker prior to the start of your shift regardless of vaccination status.
- It is always wise to use disinfecting wipes to clean computers in common areas and to use hand sanitizer before and after all encounters. Avoid eating meals in team rooms. Utilize the preferred space for eating at each clinical site.
- Make sure you wear a mask and wash your hands frequently.
  - [https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/training/interactiveEducation/](https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/training/interactiveEducation/)
- If any student has concerns about caring for COVID-positive patients, please discuss this with Dr. Goldsmith and with your clerkship director at the beginning of the clerkship.
- If there is a workplace exposure, you will be notified by Infection Prevention. You must follow all recommendations as advised by the Infection Prevention and/or Occupational Health teams.
- If you have any known exposure to COVID-19 (workplace or outside of work) or if you have COVID-19 associated symptoms, fill out the COVID-19 Hotline Employee Triage Questionnaire to determine the next steps. If you are instructed to quarantine or isolate, notify your clinical preceptor or clerkship director and Dr. Goldsmith. For any student with an exposure requiring testing, the test will be ordered by the NM COVID-19 response team. You will be able to see the order is placed by logging into your MyNM account.
• Please reach out to Dr. Goldsmith and Linda Daniels (l-daniels2@northwestern.edu) if you receive a bill for COVID-19 testing from NM.

• 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 (AGPs), 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-19 or an ILI (influenza-like illness), do NOT come to work. Contact the NM COVID-19 response team by filling out the COVID-19 Hotline Employee Triage Questionnaire which will walk you through the next steps and assist you in getting tested. Alternatively, you can call the NM COVID hotline at 312.472.6843. Please make sure you have signed up for a MyNM account as this will streamline the testing and clearance process. Remain at home, contact Dr. Goldsmith and your clinical preceptor / clerkship director / module coordinator (as appropriate) until you receive additional guidance from the NM COVID-19 team.

• If you are instructed to isolate at home because of illness or exposure, your clerkship and module 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.

• You may return to the clinical environment when cleared by the COVID-19 response team. You can receive clearance by answering a series of questions in the COVID-19 Hotline Employee Triage Questionnaire.

• For support, please reach out to any of the deans in AWOME, your college mentor, clerkship leadership or CAPS https://www.northwestern.edu/caps-chicago/.

Education Considerations:

• Conferences and learning activities may be offered virtually, hybrid or in-person. Attendance is expected whether virtual or in-person. If virtual, cameras should be turned on unless discussed with the clerkship director/Coordinator ahead of time.

• Official guidelines about indoor masking for vaccinated people are rapidly evolving. At this time, masks are optional (except in clinical spaces), but that recommendation may change as the situation in Chicago evolves. Please pay attention to communications from the University, FSM, and clinical affiliates. While in classrooms and shared spaces, requests for masking by any student, staff or faculty member should be honored.

• Guidelines and procedures for rounding and patient sign-outs will be individualized for each clerkship and discussed at orientation. Many clerkships have incorporated 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, CTA and shared Lyft).