

Revised Student Guidelines for Clinical Care Activities during COVID Pandemic- Updated 7/2023

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](#)).
- Read the [FSM Student COVID-19 FAQs](#)
- Make sure your Epic Access is up-to-date and activated
 - For Epic password reset, please contact NMIS at (312)926-4357
 - For NM Account reactivation requests, contact Linda Daniels (l-daniels2@northwestern.edu)
 - Pediatric clerkship students may have additional Lurie MyLearn modules to complete

Policies and Requirements

- It is expected that all students are vaccinated and boosted against SARS-CoV-2 unless an exemption is sought and approved through Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. If you are exempt from vaccination, you must follow all accommodations including any 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.
- Make sure you wear a mask and wash your hands frequently:
<https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/training/interactiveEducation/>
- Use PPE appropriate to the clinical situation. When in doubt, ask someone. **N95 masks and eye protection (face shield or goggles) should be worn when caring for all COVID-positive patients and patients who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19.** Please ensure a secure fit of your N95 mask.
- Use contact and droplet precautions as clinically indicated (mask, eye protection, gown and gloves) – there will be a sign on the door of all patient rooms where these precautions are indicated.
- It is always wise to use disinfecting wipes to clean computers in common areas and to use hand sanitizer before and after all encounters. To minimize risks, avoid eating meals in team rooms or other enclosed spaces. Utilize the preferred space for eating at each clinical site.
- 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 a workplace exposure to COVID-19 or if you have COVID-19 associated symptoms, fill out the [NM Respiratory Virus Questionnaire](#) to determine the next steps.** If you are instructed to quarantine or isolate, notify your clinical preceptor, clerkship director, clerkship coordinator 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 by logging into your MyNM account.
- **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.**
- Please reach out to Linda Daniels (l-daniels2@northwestern.edu) if you receive a bill for COVID-19 testing from NM.

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 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. We are located in the Central Region.** 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/senior resident and clerkship director and clerkship coordinator.
- If you are instructed to isolate at home because of illness or exposure, your clerkship director will work with you to create virtual experiences as appropriate. You may need to make up 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 “Return to Work Clearance” by answering a series of questions in the [COVID-19 Hotline Employee Triage Questionnaire](#).**
- For additional support, please reach out to any of the deans in AWOME, your college mentor, clerkship leadership or CAPS <https://www.northwestern.edu/caps-chicago/>.

Educational 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 change frequently. At this time, masks are required in all clinical and hospital spaces. Please pay attention to communications from the University, FSM, and clinical affiliates.
- 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](#)).