

# FEINBERG EDUCATION GUIDANCE

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**Updated December 17, 2020**

**Changing guidance will be provided as circumstances dictate**

## Principles

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- Ensure that our students return to campus in a way that is compliant and congruent with [city](#) and [state](#) stay at home policies, as well as University [policies for environmental health and safety](#) and [phased return to campus](#).
- Recognize we are in an uncertain new-normal; risk can be mitigated with appropriate caution, but not completely eliminated; the virus is going to be in the community causing new cases of disease for some time; will need to adapt to change.
- Self-agency characterized by common sense behaviors and consideration of others in the teaching environment is critical to an effective return to campus.
- The school's responsibility is to provide guidance and support for how to implement best practices for safely returning to work in an academic campus setting, as well as to ensure that our educational mission can be accomplished. Entrusting educational programs in departments have the responsibility of implementing this guidance and adhering to expectations in a manner appropriate to workplace configurations, operations, staff and team composition, and programmatic activities.
- All individuals returning to campus must complete a [University training module](#). Those involved with research must complete the "[Pandemic Essentials: Research on Campus](#)" training module assigned in myHR Learn.
- Trust but verify: **A monitored hotline (312-503-3437)** is available to allow faculty, staff, and students to report concerns or issues that may need to be addressed by the school; it is hoped in the spirit of quality improvement that people using the hotline will leave contact information to provide confidential follow-up. In addition, buildings will be regularly monitored to ensure that programs and laboratories are meeting appropriate guidance.
- All faculty, staff, and students should follow [University procedures for reporting positive cases of COVID-19](#).
- Northwestern University supports flexible work arrangements, both occasional and formal, where work allows. See Northwestern's [COVID work arrangement web site](#) for the University's policy and other details.
- Common sense approaches for social distancing should be implemented within shared campus facilities.
- Be prepared for either tightening or loosening of occupancy and other guidance below, and the possibility of another shelter-in-place order, at any time.

## Education Leadership

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- Education leadership supervising the curricula of the school will review and be familiar with this document as it relates to planning student activities.
- Education leadership will determine which learning activities can occur virtually (e.g. didactic lectures) through Zoom classrooms versus those which require on-campus participation (e.g. clinical skills, anatomy lab, and simulation).
- When determining whether a learning session can be in-person, please refer to University and City of Chicago guidelines: [University guidance for instructional spaces](#).
- Education leadership will recommend social distancing and PPE expectations for classroom and small groups sessions, clinical skills training, and other on campus activities that require in person participation to meet educational objectives.

## Health Considerations

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- Daily use of the official Northwestern University or Northwestern Medicine symptom tracker is required for entry to campus.
- Faculty, staff, and students with fever (>100.4), respiratory illness, cold, or other symptoms of illness are expected to stay home. Students in this situation should contact their Dean of Students or Program Director regarding specific education alternatives. Students using their own health insurance should contact their physician if they become ill or suspect COVID-19 infection.
- Testing information for Feinberg faculty, students, and staff members can be found on the [Feinberg COVID Testing webpage](#).
- Persons diagnosed with COVID-19 or presumed COVID-19, or who have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19, must comply with all [posted Northwestern University return-to-work policies for communicable disease reporting](#).
- Each classroom and learning space will post a sign advising maximum occupancy to preserve social distancing.
- Cloth or procedure/surgical masks must be worn by all personnel at all times while on campus, even when social distancing is being observed.
- Handwashing and sanitizers should be used several times during the school day.
- Students, staff and faculty should not congregate in campus hallways or lobbies.
- Elevator usage should be limited to 4 riders, one in each corner; use of stairs is strongly encouraged for one floor up and two floors down.
- Classrooms will be cleaned daily in accordance with [cleaning policy procedures](#). Deep cleaning will be arranged if a known COVID-19 exposure occurs.

## Clinical Rotations

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- Students will only be assigned to sites where clinical leadership affirms willingness to accept students and is able to provide an educationally sound experience to achieve the rotation goals and objectives.
- The clinical site also agrees to provide appropriate PPE and have consistent infection control precautions (i.e. hand hygiene, universal masking).
- M3 and M4 students may provide direct care for known or suspected COVID-19 patients on an opt-in basis without consequence to grading or assessment.
- Students will not be present for aerosol generating procedures for known COVID positive patients.
- Students will comply with temperature and symptom screening in place for other clinical staff (physicians, nurses, etc) and other infection control practices such as hand hygiene, masking and the use of goggles
- If symptoms develop or an exposure has occurred, students should follow the same criteria for COVID-19 testing as other health care workers at the clinical site.
- Didactics will be held virtually through January 2021 except for simulation and CEC clinical skills sessions. This will be reviewed monthly and adjusted according to local guidelines.
- Masking should be practiced universally in team room. Students should eat in alternate spaces. Social distancing should be practiced when possible in team rooms.
- All students must review and attest they have watched and understood the procedures for wearing, removing, and discarding masks (Northwestern Medicine [video on masking](#)).

## Anatomy Lab

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- Anatomy education will combine dissection, virtual anatomy and prosection for the 2020-21 academic year.
- Students should wear a mask to the lab and remain masked during all anatomy lab sessions.
- A reduced number of tanks will be used during AY 20-21 to allow more open space in the lab.
- A reduced maximum occupancy will be posted for the anatomy lab.
- Students will use all wash up sinks in the lab for hand hygiene. No more than one student should use a sink at a time.
- All door handles, soap dispensers, sinks, extra tool containers, the iPad charge cart, and other relevant surfaces will be cleaned daily.
- Gloves and Gowns will be distributed to students before sessions, making use of changing rooms unnecessary.

## Simulation and Clinical Education Center

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- Simulation groups will be limited in size as per local guidelines.
- Students will be provided a surgical mask and goggles for close proximity procedures (e.g. mock surgery/resuscitation) and a surgical mask for physical examination of standardized patients.

## Galter Health Sciences Library and Learning Center

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- Details about library operations, including hours and access, can be found here: <https://galter.northwestern.edu/news/coronavirusupdate>
- Cloth or procedure/surgical masks must be worn by all persons in the library at all times. Masks must fully cover the mouth and nose.
- Handwashing and sanitizers should be used several times by all personnel during the day. Sanitation stations are placed throughout the library; proper handwashing with warm water and soap for >20 seconds is the best option. This can be done in the restrooms.
- Social and physical distancing should be maintained at all times while in the library. Students, staff, and faculty should avoid congregating in any library spaces.
- Galter Library will post signs advising maximum occupancy in all spaces to permit physical distancing, including all public spaces, conference rooms, computer classroom, and other enclosed spaces.
- Elevator usage at Galter Library should be limited to 1 rider; use of stairs is strongly encouraged.
- In accordance with best practice guidance for the handling and processing of library materials, Galter Library staff will practice a 72-hour “no-touch” quarantine for incoming mail, books, returns, etc.
- Any 1:1 discussions or consultations (e.g., AOSC literature review consultations or research consultations with librarians) will take place via Zoom. More information can be found at <https://galter.northwestern.edu/request-services-and-materials/liaison>. Students should contact [Molly Beestrup](#), Education and Curriculum Coordinator, to arrange a time to meet.
- All door handles, tables, and other relevant surfaces will be cleaned daily.
- Restroom capacity should be limited to 1 person at a time.
- Public computers will be arranged to permit social distancing. You may use any available desktop computer. Please wash hands before and after use, as the keyboard and mouse will not be sanitized. You may sanitize the mouse and keyboard with a sanitizing wipe,

available throughout the library.

- No food is permitted in the library at any time. Beverages are limited to personal water bottles only.
- Adherence to these policies will maintain a healthy learning and working environment in Galter Health Sciences Library and Learning Center. Persons who violate any of these policies may lose their privileges to use the Library, as appropriate.

### Visiting Students

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- Feinberg is currently not accepting visiting medical students. We will reassess the feasibility of hosting a limited number of visiting student rotations.

### Miscellaneous

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- Off campus, students are expected to comply with local guidelines including masking even when outdoors, practicing social distancing, and limiting gatherings.
- Professional travel is not permitted at this time; personal travel is discouraged.
- Individuals entering or returning to Illinois from U.S. states experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases as defined by The City of Chicago are asked to quarantine for a period from the time of last contact within the identified state. The current list of states impacted by Chicago's Emergency Travel Order, as well as details related to the City's quarantine order, can be found [here](#).