COVID 19 Safety Plan for Duke Healthcare Students in DUHS and PDC Clinics

This plan sets forth the safety precautions that apply to students’ clinical rotations in the current public health emergency environment.

Clinical care always involves some risk in caring for patients, particularly those who may have infectious illnesses (including tuberculous, influenza, HIV, rotavirus, and others). To address these risks, Duke Health clinical practice reflects requirements and standards designed to protect the health and safety of our students and trainees, staff, and faculty, as well as our patients. In the era of COVID, we are working with infection control experts to implement new protocols to mitigate the risk of potential exposure as students return to in-person clinical rotations, while continuing our mission of providing essential clinical care and training the next generation of healthcare providers. Addressing this new challenge requires efforts from the entire healthcare community.

Based on current CDC guidance and internal infection control expertise, the keys to reducing COVID transmission are aggressive symptom monitoring, handwashing and use of face masks to prevent asymptomatic spread of disease. Social distancing will also be required to the extent possible in the clinical environment. Where it is not possible to distance (for example when seeing a patient in a clinic space, entering a hospital room or even with team rounding), infection control believes these activities are appropriate with the universal use of facemasks, symptom screening, and limiting the duration of such activities (i.e., spending only a few minutes together in a room).

During this time, as we “re-open,” we can expect that many clinical rotations will feel different. To abide by social distancing requirements within clinical spaces, students may be asked to work in an unused patient room, participate in virtual rounding with iPads or be in a room that is different than the team “work-room.” Students may have staggered schedules (students working in the same clinic may alternate, with one working in the clinic and seeing patients who come to clinic while a second student may stay “home” and only do telehealth that day). Student lunches may be staggered with others and specific locations for eating defined. Some clinics may request/advise students and the rest of their staff to eat outside.

In order to participate in in-person clinical activities at this time, students must attest that they have read and agree to the following protocols. This attestation acknowledges the inherent risks of providing healthcare, as well as our personal and community responsibilities to reduce to the extent possible those risks to patients, ourselves, and each other. The link to this attestation is at the bottom of the document.

**Student Responsibilities**

1. **Symptom Monitoring:** Students must monitor their symptoms daily as do all Duke Employees through an online survey. A daily pass is issued through the survey.
   - Symptoms to monitor will include: Cough; Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; or at least two of the following: Fever, Chills, Repeated shaking with chills, Muscle pain, Headache, Sore throat, or New loss of taste or smell and additional symptoms added by CDC as the pandemic evolves.
   - If a student has any of these symptoms, they must immediately call Student Health. Students may not go to work or any in-person training activities unless expressly authorized to do so by Student Health. Students should call Duke Student Health Center at (919) 681-9355, option 2 during operational hours to speak with a triage nurse. After hours, students
2. Use of Face Coverings: Students should wear a face mask to campus and the checkpoint at which symptom screening will occur. Students will be provided a fresh face mask each day at the clinical sites. Students must wear face covering in all Duke Health facilities and clinics, including leased buildings, until further notice. When eating or drinking, alone in a private office or going to the restroom, face masks can be removed and stored with exterior side down on a paper towel or in a paper bag. Principles for Universal masking include:
   o Perform hand hygiene before and after handling your mask (to avoid contaminating yourself and others).
   o Ensure that you are 6 feet away from anyone else while eating or drinking (as you will be unmasked).
   o Avoid touching your face or eyes with unclean hands (to avoid contaminating yourself).
   o Get a new mask if your mask is contaminated with bodily fluids.

3. Handwashing: Students must wash their hands at regular intervals. Handwashing stations or hand sanitizer dispensers will be installed throughout the buildings, but especially in elevator areas, and common areas. Students must wash hands upon entry and prior to exiting any facility. Students will perform hand hygiene with soap and water or hand sanitizer (>60% ethanol or >70% isopropanol content) according to the CDC and WHO.

4. Social Distancing: As they work, students must preserve a distance of at least 6 feet from the next person, except as needed to perform their assigned responsibilities or to move within the facility. Brief, more proximal, interactions (e.g., passing in a hallway, short elevator rides) present low risk AS LONG AS other guidelines (masking, hand washing) are followed. Students may be in exam rooms/hospital rooms with patients and other team members at a distance less than 6 feet if everyone is wearing a mask and the time in the room is limited (preferably less than 15 minutes, and certainly no longer than an hour, with the exceptions of procedures, including the OR/Labor and Delivery, etc.).

5. Use of SOM issued laptop: Students may be required to take their Duke issued laptop (and any headphones the student has) for use in clinic and/or with telehealth.
6. Students will also complete the following very short modules:
   - **Hand Washing (click “Launch the course to start”):** [https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/training/interactiveEducation/](https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/training/interactiveEducation/) (**for questions within the module, answer, hit submit, and then the next arrow**)
   - **Forever FaceShield Use and Maintenance:** [Face Shield Tip Sheet](#) and [Duke Forever Faceshield Instructions](#)

**Clinic Responsibilities: CDs and Clinics**

- **Arrival and Symptom Screening:** Upon arrival each day, students will need to know where to go for clinic screening and receipt of their face mask. Clerkship directors in concert with site directors will need to specify this location in advance of the student’s arrival. This process should mimic the process for all clinic staff (e.g., at entry to Duke North hospital, in the tunnel by PG2, etc.)
- **Density of Learners:** the CD and site director will work together to determine where students will sit in between patients, keeping in mind the social distancing guidelines that have already been set up by the clinic. This may require staggering shifts of learners, utilizing empty clinic rooms, etc. Locations for breaks will need to be identified. These determinations will need to be made in advance and shared with learners and faculty.
- **Attire:** CDs in concert with their site directors should indicate to students, in advance of their rotations, if they should be wearing scrubs (green or blue) or professional attire. Students are responsible for purchasing blue scrubs if they wish to use these as professional dress.
- **Supplies:** The clinic should provide adequate supplies for handwashing and supplies to wipe down work surfaces after work.
- **Notification to students:** Clinics will provide students with the location in which they should check in (for symptom screening and to receive a fresh face mask), identify where the student will sit/work during the clinic session/when working with the inpatient team, and clarify what attire students should wear (blue scrubs, green scrubs, professional dress).

**Request for Accommodations/Leave of Absence**

Students who have concerns about participating in clinical care secondary to health concerns should request formal evaluation for accommodations from the Duke Disability Management System and/or consider a formal leave of absence. Students should discuss these options and their implications (e.g: insurance, financial aid, transcript notations, etc.) with their Advisory Dean.

Students who encounter challenges with clinical re-entry (ie, denied access to clinics or approved patients, lack of appropriate space, social distancing concerns, etc) should first contact their Clerkship Director immediately. If they are not available or the student needs additional assistance, they should contact Dr. Alison Clay, the Assistant Dean of Clinical Education.
Compliance with the instructions outlined above is required for continued participation in your clinical training activities; violation may result in the immediate revocation of building access privileges and/or other appropriate disciplinary action.

I attest to having read this statement and will abide by these policies by completing the following 1 question survey:

I attest that I have read this statement and will abide by the SOM policies by completing the following brief survey:

https://duke.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cRVbTDzWZKqDsr3