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**University of New Mexico / University of New Mexico Hospital  
Covid -19 Guidelines for Students**

UNM Hospital is committed to providing educational opportunities for learners in our own public health sciences center as well as health care academic institutions we partner with while maintaining a safe environment for students, staff and patients. Health profession learners from UNM Health Sciences Center will receive first preference for UNM Health System rotations.

**Guiding Principles:**

- Comprehensive and timely care for patients
- Covid safe practices including mask wearing, hand washing, social distancing
- Preservation of PPE
- UNM's mission to educate the physicians, nurses, pharmacists and other health care personnel of the future

These guidelines must be followed by all health profession students entering the inpatient and ambulatory areas of our facilities.

**1. Prior to Clinical Rotations**

- a. Clinical Rotation Schedules
  - i. Avoid gatherings of more than 5 people in any space or area such as patient rooms, patient exam rooms, work rooms or conference rooms. Always allow for proper social distancing when possible.
- b. Student Screening
  - i. Coming in from out of state or out of the four county area (Valencia, Bernalillo, Sandoval and Santa Fe Counties):
    1. The student will be required to call the Covid Call Center at **505-515-8212** for instructions about symptom checking and/or quarantine. (see out of county student process below)
    2. The Covid Call Center is open Monday – Sunday, 7am – 7pm
    3. If coming from out of state, the student should expect to quarantine for 10 days in advance of starting clinical and be symptom free.
    4. If coming from in state but out of the four county area, they will be given instructions by the call center.
      - a. If the student is coming from an area of known COVID-19 community transmission, the student must be quarantined for 10 days before starting the clinical rotation and be symptom free.
  - ii. Daily screening
    1. The students should enter each clinic or facility through approved doors that are staffed by screeners. All students will be screened

prior to going to their assigned location. They will wear their school badge and receive a colored sticker indicating they have been screened. There may be a wait time and students should plan accordingly.

- c. Travel
  - i. Students are strongly discouraged from traveling out of state and the four county area during their rotation and must consult with their program director before doing so. This could delay or extend their rotation and course completion.
  - ii. If the student travels, they must contact the Covid Call Center upon return at **505-515-8212** for guidance. The directions could include quarantine and out-of-pocket COVID-19 testing.

## **I. During Clinical Rotations**

- a. Students will not be allowed to care for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- b. Students are expected to follow hospital guidance for all types of isolation patients before entering the patient's room. (See Attachment A)
- c. Students are not allowed to enter a room after an aerosolizing procedure for 45 minutes. (See list of High Risk and Low Risk Aerosolizing-Generating Procedures below).
- d. Masks:
  - i. Students will be required to wear a mask when entering the facility. This can be their personal mask.
  - ii. Upon entering their assigned unit or clinic students are required to wear a procedure or surgical mask at all times, which includes patient care areas and public spaces.
  - iii. The student will obtain a mask from the hospital unit or clinic they are assigned to and follow the unit guidelines for mask wearing.
  - iv. Students may wear the N-95 they were tested on and if they need a replacement they will obtain it from their assigned hospital unit or clinic.
  - v. Masks may be removed while eating or drinking. Social distancing must be maintained as much as possible while eating and drinking.
  - vi. Mask usage may be extended to the entire week unless soiled or damaged.
  - vii. When not in use, the masks will be kept in a plastic container labeled with the student's name and date.
  - viii. Students will need to provide their own plastic container
- e. Eye Protection
  - i. Students must wear eye protection when performing direct patient care. TidiShields are available to students at clinical sites.
  - ii. At the end of a shift, students must clean all portions of the TidiShield:
    - 1. Don clean gloves

2. Clean all portions thoroughly, front and back of lens, with an Oxiver Tb wipe
  3. Observe a one minute wet time
  4. Doff gloves
  5. Don clean gloves
  6. Clean all portions with an alcohol swab or gauze saturated with isopropyl alcohol
- iii. After following the TidiShield cleaning process, students will place the TidiShield in the recycle bin located on the unit.
- f. Clinical Space:
- i. Students must maintain social distancing practices of 6 feet while in clinical space or public space as much as possible. This includes meal breaks and pre- and post-conferences.
  - ii. The instructor will send students to lunch or breaks individually.
  - iii. Instructors are responsible for ensuring adequate conference space to enforce the 6 feet of social distancing is used for pre- and post-conferences.
  - iv. Masks must worn except when eating.

## II. Exposures

- a. Students must not have been in direct contact with a person that has tested positive for COVID-19 for ten days before the start of the rotation.
- b. Students must report if they had direct contact with any person that has tested positive for COVID-19 during their clinical rotation. They are to report to the RN Supervisor on duty for the unit for potential exposure work up. The RN Supervisor will follow the exposure work up plan used for staff.
  - i. The student will notify their instructor immediately.
  - ii. The RN Supervisor will notify the Unit Director who will notify infection control provider on call.
  - iii. If the student has reported symptoms or has had direct contact outside the clinical environment with a person that is positive for lab-tested COVID-19 infection, the student will contact the UNMH Covid Call Center at **505-515-8212** for further guidance. The student might be removed from clinical rotation for 10 days after last exposure or positive test.

### Out of County Student Screening Process

If the student resides out of the four county area (Valencia, Bernalillo, Sandoval and Santa Fe Counties), they are required to call the hospital's call center prior to clinical start date.

1. The school will identify all students who reside outside of the four county area and instruct the students to call the Covid Call Center 10 days prior to the clinical start date.
  - a. The roster should include these students and be sent to [studentplacement@salud.unm.edu](mailto:studentplacement@salud.unm.edu) for record keeping.

- b. The student will provide the Covid Call Center with their name and email address, their county of residency and the school representative's email address.
2. The Covid Call Center will provide instructions to the student that could include a 10 day quarantine/isolation or symptom monitoring. This is dependent on the spread rate of the county they reside in.
3. The student will contact the Covid Call Center the day prior to the clinical start date for clearance to be in their assigned area and will bring a paper copy of the clearance to the unit. The Covid Call Center will email the student, the school and student placement with the clearance.
4. The instructor will be responsible for ensuring all affected students are cleared to be in the building.

### **Aerosolizing-Generating Procedures**

#### **Higher Risk Aerosolizing-Generating Procedures:**

- Endotracheal intubation/extubation including SGAs
- Positive pressure ventilation (BiPAP, CPAP, BVM—use filter when possible)
- Open suctioning of airways
- Sputum induction
- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- Bronchoscopy
- Other airway procedures (e.g. nasopharyngeal endoscopy, surgical airway, tracheostomy)
- Nebulizer administration
- Esophageal procedures (e.g. upper GI endoscopy, TEE)
- Certain dental procedures
- Pulmonary function testing

#### **Lower Risk Aerosolizing-Generating Procedures:**

- High flow O<sub>2</sub> delivered >15 L/min
- Dysphagia evaluation
- Insertion of gastric tube (e.g. NG, OG)
- Transpleural procedures without significant risk of a pressurized air leak (e.g. CT guided lung biopsy, thoracentesis, pleural tube placement, pleural catheter removal without positive pressure ventilation, pleural catheters to suction or water seal)
- Treadmill stress testing
- Nasopharyngeal swab collection
- Second stage of labor
- Excessive coughing

Attachment A.



**ISOLATION SIGNS AND PPE REQUIREMENTS**

<b>ISOLATION SIGN</b>	<b>PPE FOR STAFF</b>	<b>OTHER REQUIREMENTS</b>
Contact	Gown and Gloves	
Contact	Gown and Gloves	ONLY soap and water hand washing when leaving room
Droplet	Surgical or Procedural Mask	
Contact & Droplet	Surgical or Procedural Mask, Gown, and Gloves	
Airborne	N-95 Mask	
Airborne & Contact	N-95 Mask, Gown, and Gloves	Immunity to Chickenpox
Airborne	N-95 Mask	Immunity to Measles