

POLICY #9: COVID PANDEMIC POLICY

Purpose: To provide guidelines for students participating in patient care during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Procedure:

1. Students must sign the *Misericordia University Waiver of Liability Agreement* and the *Student Clinical Policy During the COVID Pandemic* prior to beginning at each clinical site.
2. Prior to the commencement of each clinical day, students need to complete a pre-screening using the University sponsored app as well as any additional clinical site required process.
3. If the pre-screening is negative the student may proceed to the clinical site for the learning experience. If applicable, the student may be required to complete an additional screening at the clinical site which may include but not limited to such procedures as:
 - In-unit temperature check and screening
 - Entering through a screening station at a main entrance for a temperature check
4. If the pre-screening is positive either at home or on campus the student should either not proceed to the clinical site or return home if already at the clinical site.
5. Students must alert their program's clinical/fieldwork coordinator, as well as the clinical site's designated contact person.
6. Students need to notify the University's Cougar Care, but will follow COVID-19 processes of the clinical site.
7. Clinical sites will inform the student of processes regarding clinical exposures. Students/clinical site will then inform the program's clinical/fieldwork coordinator. Students should follow the individual site's process for clinical exposures.
8. Students may return to the clinical site for their learning experiences if they meet the criteria on the Student Return to Clinical Form, attached to this policy, and available from the clinical/fieldwork coordinator.
9. The Student Return to Clinical Form must be completed by a healthcare provider prior to return and submitted to the program's clinical/fieldwork coordinator.
10. Students reporting to their clinical site must wear their own masks, and then change to clinic or school-provided medical grade PPE in patient-facing areas unless otherwise directed by the individual clinical site.
11. Students must engage in social distancing while at their clinical site. Understanding this is difficult during patient care, the 6-foot rule should be maintained as much as possible. Students should refrain from group congregations at nursing stations, in hallways, cafeterias, break and conference rooms, etc. While in the clinical environment, students will comply with the individual site's policies regarding social distancing.
12. Students may not take care of COVID-19 positive patients or persons under investigation (PUIs).
13. Students may not directly perform aerosolizing or aerodigestive procedures. Examples include intubations, TEEs, and EGDs.

- Rule of thumb: procedures that require an N95 mask.
- Exceptions: these may be performed if part of professional core competencies required for graduation Student COVID-19 Screening and Follow-up Process