Clinical Rotations/Practicums for Nursing and Allied Health

COVID-19 Safety Updates

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Ascension Wisconsin has partnered with our affiliated schools and continued to welcome nursing and allied health students to our sites of care for their clinical experiences. Due to the ongoing prevalence of COVID-19 throughout Wisconsin, we continue to review and update our expectations for students participating in clinical experiences to keep our patients, students, and caregivers safe.

The updates below will be in effect until further notice.

- **COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement**
  - The COVID-19 vaccination is required for all associates. providers, contractors, vendors, students/onsite instructors, and volunteers. Due date for students to be fully vaccinated is **11/12/2021**, this is the same due date as the seasonal influenza vaccine.

- **Infection Prevention and Control/PPE**
  - Students and faculty are required to wear their own cloth or surgical-type mask when entering the building.
  - Masks will be provided at entry, place mask on immediately and mask is to remain on while in the building except when eating or drinking
  - Students will not be fit-tested or issued N-95 masks.
  - Students will not be permitted to care for Persons Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID, COVID positive or any patients in droplet or airborne isolation. They may care for patients in contact isolation. Follow isolation signs on door frames of any patient requiring any type of isolation.
  - Total number of individuals in a patient room is limited to 3*, including the patient, due to safe distancing expectations when not providing essential direct patient care. *Student can be an additional person in the departments that allow a support person (ie: OB) as long as they can maintain social distancing.
  - Ascension Wisconsin Incident Command has recommended the use of eye protection (goggles or face shield) for all patient-facing associates and students. Please review the Universal Eye Protection Guidance document for specifics.

- **Screening**
  - Screening will occur upon entry to the building. Students/Instructors will fill out a screening form asking about symptoms and possible exposure* to COVID-19. Students will not be able to enter and attend clinical if any screening question is answered YES. Please contact your school faculty/instructor if you answer YES to any of the screening questions.

- **Quarantine -** to use when exposed to the virus and may be infected

  Awareness of potential exposures is key in reducing the spread of COVID-19. What is considered a direct exposure or close contact with a positive COVID-19 person?

  - Were within 6 ft of the person, for more than 15 minutes, and without masks;
  - Had direct physical contact with the person (e.g hug, kiss, handshake);
  - Had direct contact with the person's respiratory secretions (coughed/sneezed on, contact with dirty tissue, sharing drinking glass, food or towels or other personal items);
  - Stayed overnight for at least one night in a household with the person

Impact of exposure depends on COVID-19 Vaccine status.

- **<u>Unvaccinated, or not received booster shot (and you're overdue for a booster shot)</u>** and have an exposure to a person with known COVID-19 **OR** showing any symptoms of COVID-19:
  - Stay home at least 5 days after last contact with day of exposure considered day 0.
  - Wear a well-fitted mask around others at home
  - If unable to mask around others, continue to quarantine for 10 days.
  - Avoid people who are immunocompromised or at high risk of severe disease and nursing homes and other high-risk settings (healthcare facilities) until after at least 10 days.

  If symptoms do not develop, get tested at least 5 days after last contact
  - If negative, can leave home but continue to wear a well fitting mask for 10 days after last contact.
  - If positive, isolate for at least 5 days from the date of positive test.
  - If unable to get tested, you can leave home after day 5 as long as you remain asymptomatic . Continue to wear a well fitting mask for 10 days after last contact.

  For 10 days watch for symptoms
  - If symptoms develop, get tested. If test positive, follow isolation recommendations (see below)
- **<u>If you are exposed and are in the following groups, you NO longer need to quarantine</u>:**
  - 18 yrs old or older and have received **all** recommended doses including boosters and additional primary shots for immunocompromised.
  - Had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (tested positive using a viral test).
  - If asymptomatic, they can attend clinical while actively monitoring their symptoms and follow masking protocol

<u>Isolation (to use when you are sick or test positive for COVID-19 even without symptoms</u>

Tested positive and have symptoms

- End isolation after 5 full days if you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications
  - Continue to wear a well fitting mask around others at home and in public for 5 additional days.
  - If unable to wear a mask when around others, should continue in isolation for a full 10 days.

Avoid people who are immunocompromised or at high risk of severe disease and nursing homes and other high-risk settings(healthcare facilities) until after at least 10 days.

If you continue to have fever or your other symptoms have not improved after 5 full days, you should wait to end isolation until fever free for 24hrs without medications.

If decide to test on day 5:

- Negative can end isolation but continue to wear well fitting mask until day 10
- Positive continue in isolation until day 10.

Tested positive with NO symptoms

Can end isolation after 5 full days.

- Continue to wear a well fitting mask around others, at home, and in public for 5 additional days.
- If unable to wear a mask when around others, should continue in isolation for a full days.

If you have a weakened immune system due to a health condition or medication, you might need to stay home and isolate longer than 14 days. Talk to your healthcare provider for more information.

Reporting COVID-19 Illness

If any COVID-19 symptoms occur during clinical/practicum time at an Ascension Wisconsin site, the student must leave immediately and notify their instructor/ preceptor/department manager/supervisor. Students should report symptoms to their school faculty and health care provider to arrange testing.

- Any necessary follow up care will be the responsibility of the student/faculty
- The following information should be gathered by if an exposure or positive finding has occurred.
    - Instructor/Student Name
    - Email Address:
    - Clinical Site/Hospital
    - Department
    - Precepted or Group placement
    - School Instructor
    - Email
    - Date of covid symptoms
    - Last date of clinical
    - Date of covid test
    - Date of covid positive results
    - Describe masking during clinical. Was the individual masked while onsite and during interacting with staff, patients, others. Describe meal/break practices
    - Vaccine status - date of vaccine(s) and booster

Safe Clinical Practices

- **Social Distancing**
    - Limit of 2 students with a preceptor is strongly recommended at this time to stay in compliance with safe social distancing at all times while on sit
    - Follow social distancing spacing while on units/departments, do not congregate or cluster.
    - Waiting rooms will have capacity signs noting maximum capacity allowed in each space.
    - Elevators have maximum capacity and signage to show where to stand in elevators, most hold 3-4 people at a time.

- **Meals/Breaks** ***** Please Note: Peer to peer COVID exposure is of utmost concern during meals/breaks*****
    - The cafeteria is available for use for any break, do not use break rooms on patient care units or in departments.
    - Wear your mask over your nose and mouth at all times while you are selecting and paying for food in the cafeteria
    - Social distance seating is in place, no more than 2 persons per table. Do not move tables or chairs.
    - It is best practice to eats meals alone, as you are at greatest risk of exposure during times you are unmasked
    - If you choose to eat with others, the following practices should be followed
        - Maintain social distancing at all times, 6 feet or greater
            - This includes indoor and outdoor seating
        - Take turns eating, so that no more than one peer is out of mask at a time
            - This includes indoor and outdoor seating

    - No potlucks or shared food is allowed, individually wrapped items only.
- **Room Reservations**
    - Space for pre/post conferences/meetings may not be available at this time due to social distancing standards.

Failure to comply with the safety of our patients and associates, as well as students, may result in students being asked to find alternate preceptors and learning facilities. All requirements are subject to change as the situation evolves and changes.