



Clinical Rotations/Practicums for Nursing and Allied Health

Specific COVID Considerations/Changes

Ascension Wisconsin continues to welcome nursing and allied health students to our sites for clinical experiences. Due to the prevalence of COVID-19 throughout Wisconsin, and to be in compliance with social distancing expectations as a healthcare organization, we are setting new expectations and limits to students participating in clinical experiences at Ascension Wisconsin sites.

This will be in effect until further notice.

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.

- **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.
- Effective November 2, 2020, Local 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/Exposure**

- Screening will occur upon entry to the building. You will fill out a screening form asking about possible exposure* to and symptoms of COVID. Students will not be able to enter if any screening question answered YES. Please contact your school faculty instructor if you answer YES to any of the screening questions.
- If students/faculty have an exposure to a person with a known COVID-19 infection **OR** any symptoms of COVID-19, including shortness of breath, fever (>99.5), or loss of taste/smell, they must not come to clinical for 14 days from exposure and should contact their school faculty and health care provider to discuss testing.
 - *Exposure* - 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
- If symptoms or exposure occurred during clinical/practicum time at an Ascension Wisconsin site, the student should report to their instructor/ preceptor/department manager/supervisor and report their 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
- **Return to Clinicals Guidelines After Illness**
 - **Positive COVID-19 test results-** For a student to return to clinicals, they must fulfill **ALL** the following:
 - Fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications and
 - Improvement in respiratory or other symptoms (cough, shortness of breath) and
 - At least 14 days since the onset of symptoms

If the student meets all above criteria, they may return for clinicals and closely adhere to the universal masking protocol. Students must contact their school faculty before returning to clinical.
 - **Negative COVID-19 test results** -Students may to return to clinicals when they fulfill **ALL** of the following:
 - Fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications and
 - Improvement in respiratory or other symptoms (cough, shortness of breath) and
 - At least 14 days since the onset of symptoms

If the student meets all above criteria, they may return to clinicals and closely adhere to the universal masking protocol. Students must contact their school faculty before returning to clinical.

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.
- **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****
 - 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 eat 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.