



POLICY ON DIRECT PATIENT CARE ACTIVITIES

Dated: July 6, 2020

Supersedes: None

I. PURPOSE

To establish a framework to guide student entry into clinical settings and to maintain student safety in the face of COVID-19.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to all New York Medical College School of Medicine (“NYMC SOM”) students. In the event hospital policies and procedures require more stringent guidelines and procedures, such hospital policies will take precedence.

III. POLICY

It is the policy of NYMC that all necessary precautions are taken to ensure NYMC SOM students are not placed at risk when participating in clinical situations.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. Decision making is based on the following core principles:

1. Capacity for clinical education of medical students (*e.g.* patient volume, faculty supervision)
2. Availability of PPE
3. Screening and testing of students, and
4. Ongoing evaluation of the clinical learning environment.

B. The following are general guidelines and individual clerkships, acting/sub-internships, and other clinical electives may have specific requirements for students based on their unique situation. In the event any of the above parameters is challenged, the NYMC SOM administration will remove students from direct patient care in that setting until student safety can be ensured.

1. All students must successfully complete required onboarding modules that include procedural and infection control training *e.g.*, Introduction to COVID-19; Donning/Doffing prior to entering the clinical setting.

2. All students will be screened like other team members before entering hospital/ambulatory facilities in accordance with the New York State Department of Health re-opening policies. Students are required to comply with such policies, including being screened by facility screeners posted by designated entrances at facilities to check temperatures and ask screening questions.
3. All students must wear a surgical mask and participate in universal masking for conservation purposes and minimize use of new masks, unless the current mask is soiled.
 - a. Students must be fit-tested with N95 respirators and are expected to bring their own N95 with them into the hospital unless they are informed otherwise by local site leadership
 - b. Due to the lack of adequate N95 respirator inventory at this time, no student will participate in the care of known or suspected COVID-19 patients and/or participate in aerosolizing procedures requiring the use of N95 respirators.
4. Choice of attire worn while in clinic or inpatient setting must take into consideration the likelihood of exposure to COVID-19. Students are required to adhere to the following guidelines:
 - a. WEAR a MASK AND EYE COVERING AT ALL TIMES when you are engaged in direct patient care, unless you are in your own private space
 - b. ADHERE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES
 - c. WEAR ID BADGE AT ALL TIMES
 - d. LIMIT PERSONAL ITEMS IN CLINICAL/HOSPITAL SETTING
 - e. Upon entry into the hospital/clinical setting, a surgical procedure mask must be worn (not a cloth or other face mask).
 - f. Upon any patient encounter, personal protective equipment must be worn in accordance with hospital policy for standard precautions given the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, at this time, many facilities are using a surgical face mask plus eye protection for non COVID-19 patients, in accordance with current CDC guidance.
 - g. Personal protective equipment in accordance with transmission based precautions (contact, droplet, and airborne) must be worn for any patient requiring transmission based precautions.
 - h. New hospital scrubs must be changed into and worn in the OR delivery area. Do not leave the hospital in these same scrubs. Change back into your street clothes prior to leaving.
5. In order to prevent spread and exposure to members of your household:
 - a. Consider your exposure to COVID-19 and need to launder clothes or personally shower/bathe.

- b. Keep in mind you may have been exposed to an asymptomatic person.
 - c. Maintain impeccable hand hygiene- frequently disinfect your hands even when not involved in patient care. For example, after using a computer or after touching surfaces used by the many persons.
 - d. Follow social distancing guidelines
 - e. Maintain scrupulous attention to surface disinfection. Frequently disinfect items used in close contact to hands and mucous membranes, such as keyboards and telephones.
6. Students are required to monitor themselves for symptoms using COVID-19 symptom checklist. Development of any of these symptoms requires a prompt telehealth visit and communication with the Clerkship Director and Student Health Services.
7. Specific Management guidelines are based on current CDC recommendations and local government guidance for health workers and may be changed based on updates from those entities.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy shall be effective immediately.

VI. POLICY MANAGEMENT

Responsible Officer: Dean, School of Medicine

Responsible Executive: Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education

Responsible Office: Undergraduate Medicine Education