



## **Student Protocol and Attestation for Participating in Clinical Experiences during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

### **Fall 2021**

The protocol below is guided by the Augusta University College of Allied Health Sciences (CAHS) and its individual academic programs' competency-based objectives.

### **Student Exposure Policies/Procedures**

All CAHS students are expected to follow the standard policies and procedures as mandated by their individual programs and Augusta University regarding exposure to infectious and environmental diseases.

All health sciences students are informed of these policies before undertaking any educational activities that would place them at risk.

Currently, Augusta University is offering vaccines to eligible students, faculty and staff. Please refer to COVID-19 Resources page at <https://www.augusta.edu/covid-resources/covid-19-vaccine.php>. **Although, the COVID-19 vaccine is not required nor mandatory at this time, students are encouraged to get vaccinated.** Please contact your program if you have any specific questions regarding documentation of COVID-19 vaccination.

**\*Please note that your copy of your vaccination card is for your personal record only and should not be presented to your program or Augusta University. COVID-19 vaccination status is a private matter for every individual.**

### ***Student Attestation for Participating in Clinical Rotations during the COVID-19 Pandemic***

**CAHS programs will require that the following be completed before you (the student) can start a clinical experience or engage in patient care related activities:**

1. Beginning 14 days prior to the beginning of your clinical rotation or patient care activities, self-monitor using the checklist below:
  - a. Do you have new muscle aches not related to another medical conditions or another specific activity (e.g. due to physical exercise)? If so, take temperature.
  - b. Do you have a fever greater than 100.0° F or chills?
  - c. Do you have a sore throat, runny nose or congestion not related to another medical condition (e.g. allergies)?
  - d. Do you have a new or worsening cough that is not related to another medical condition?



- e. Do you have shortness of breath that is not attributable to another medical condition?
  - f. Do you have a recent (<5 days) loss of smell or taste?
  - g. Do you have new onset of vomiting or diarrhea not related to another medical condition?
  - h. Do you have unexplained headache or fatigue?
2. Review assigned training modules. These may vary depending on your program and assigned clinical site. Pay specific attention to:
    - a. Mask and PPE guidelines for your individual clinical or patient care site. These requirements may vary based on the site and the type of experience.
    - b. Watch PPE donning and doffing videos at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4iQUBAIBrl> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQxOc13DxvQ>
    - c. Review Hand Hygiene recommendations at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/hand-hygiene.html>
    - d. AU/CAHS Travel Policy & Requirements
  3. Review specific clinical guidelines for each clinical site or area one week prior to beginning any rotation, even if you have already reviewed these materials. This ensures you have the most current understanding of expectations at your site.
  4. To request a postponement of your clinical experience, contact your program director or other appropriate faculty if you meet any of these criteria:
    - a. Personally immunocompromised
    - b. Pregnant
    - c. Household member who is immunocompromised or
    - d. If you have any other concerns about your safety

Be aware that any delay in clinical experiences may result in a delay in program progression and graduation date.

5. If exposed, complete the Student COVID reporting form at [augusta.edu/students-report-covid](http://augusta.edu/students-report-covid). Contact Student Health at 706-721-3448 for questions about symptoms or to schedule an appointment. Student Health Services is open M-F from 8 am to 5 pm. Student Health staff will instruct you to call the AU Hotline at 706-721-1852 (Press #1) for testing. Do not attend any in-person classes and/or clinics. Contact all your professors for assignment instructions and to inform them of your expected absence. (You are not required to share any medical information related to your condition).



***For more instructions and updates regarding if you are exposed to COVID-19 or if you have symptoms of COVID-19, go to <https://www.augusta.edu/welcome-back/>.***

Additional steps to take in case of an exposure or illness:

- a. Stay home if:
    - i. you are sick (especially if with a fever greater or equal to 100.0° F **or** a cough **or** shortness of breath **or** symptoms of an upper respiratory infection);
    - ii. you have been tested for COVID-19. Stay home until test is negative or if
    - iii. you test positive for COVID-19. Stay home for at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared and at least 24 hours with no fever (without taking fever reducing medication) and improvement of symptoms;
    - iv. you have been in close contact (i.e. household contact) with anyone being tested for COVID-19.
  - b. If it is a medical emergency, go to the Emergency Room or call 911.
  - c. Notify your immediate onsite clinical supervisor and AU faculty member.
- 6. Fully vaccinated individuals do NOT need to quarantine or isolate upon exposure to a confirmed positive COVID-19 individual.**  
You are considered “fully vaccinated” for COVID-19 ≥2 weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or ≥2 weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson).
- 7. Mask requirements and/or restrictions:** Please review specific clinical guidelines regarding indoor mask requirements for each clinical site.
- 8.** If you are returning from personal international travel, you are not required to self-quarantine for 14 days.



9. Complete the attestation below and return to your program prior to beginning your clinical experience or other patient care.

I understand the protocol outlined above and have reviewed the assigned training materials identified above and by my program. I will self-monitor for symptoms (as per #1 above) for 14 days prior to the start of my clinical experience. I understand the risks associated with the clinical care of patients in the current COVID-19 pandemic and will take necessary precautions and follow prescribed protocols to prevent the spread of infection. I understand that for medical or personal reasons I can ask to delay return to clinical activities (for example, taking a leave of absence or continuing with courses that do not require clinical contact if available). I understand that some of these options may result in a delay in completion of program requirements and graduation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date