

FHS COVID Planning Guideline

The Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) recognizes that due to the nature of our programming, from time to time students will need to be in training environments in which physical distancing requirements may always not be maintained. As such, FHS has identified several designated spaces where advanced safety and clinical practice standards will be maintained.

Principle

In general, the Faculty's planning principle is to uphold equivalency of our in-house/on campus clinical training environments to the standards required of the clinical practice environments in which our students will practice and train. This means our designated clinical training environments will meet the same infection prevention and control standards as are in place for our clinical practice partner environments, specifically our primary hospitals London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) and St. Joseph's Health Care (SJHC). Students can therefore expect the same infection prevention and control standards in our clinical training environments that would be in place during clinical placement/education experiences.

Guidelines and Policy

Schools requiring clinical training labs will be required to:

1. Designate and identify clinical training spaces.
2. Develop policies and procedures specifically related to:
 - a. Screening – daily screening of all individuals entering the clinical training environments will be required
 - b. Cleaning – in consultation with facilities management, enhanced cleaning procedures beyond universal precautions, includes students performing 'wipe-down' of various equipment and technology will be required
 - c. PPE requirements – including attire, masks and other personal safety equipment
 - d. Training and Communication – plans and strategies to ensure all students are informed and trained on proper infection prevention and control procedures
 - e. Use of technology and educational materials – including procedures related to the use of laptop, tablet and phone usage during clinical skills labs,

Return to Practice

Consistent with the Ministry of Health, Middlesex-London Public Health Unit, and LHSC/SJHC policy in the event a student tests positive for COVID, they must stay home for 14 days from the beginning of symptom onset and they may return to clinical training 24 hrs after symptoms subside, or if clearance is provided by the Public Health Unit. Any interruptions to a student's program caused as a result will be adjudicated under existing absence policies by the appropriate School and Associate Dean.

Approvals

All training procedures will be reviewed by the Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, Director, Operations & Finance, and forwarded to the Provost & Vice-President (Academic) for approval prior to the initiation of any clinical training.