

Guidelines for Student Safety While Participating in Clinical Activities: Hospital and Outpatient Activities in the Covid-19 Era

The School of Medicine wants to ensure that the risk of transmission of Covid-19 to medical students, (considered non-essential healthcare workers), while completing their clinical activities is as minimal as possible. The following Student Guidelines are therefore being implemented which require students to wear eye protection, (face shield or goggles) in addition to face masks. Social distancing should be followed whenever possible but is difficult in clinical care and the other guidelines below address these challenges. We urge faculty and residents to encourage students and all healthcare providers to follow these guidelines.

- Physical distancing, face masks and eye protection reduce risk:
 - In addition to face masks, students **MUST** wear face shields/eye protection (goggles) for ALL clinical encounters. We recommend all members of the clinical care team do the same to provide the highest level of safety to patients and the healthcare team. [CDC Guidelines](#)
 - Whenever possible, social distancing should be maintained.
- “Traditional” hospital rounds with teams of healthcare providers must be re-evaluated by every attending physician.
 - The number of learners: persons entering a patient room should be reduced to those providing direct patient care
 - New methods of communication, i.e. Zoom, that allow those inside the room to be able to transmit their patient interaction to a larger group of learners outside the room need to become part of rounds.
 - Charting and other computer based activities should not be done in crowded conference rooms with multiple terminals and but need to be completed in environments that allow social distancing. Students should be encouraged to complete notes and charting remotely: isolated areas of healthcare facilities, other buildings, home.
 - Conferencing must be done in facilities that allow social distancing and not in the “traditional” rooms that are often overcrowded. This may include courtyards, outdoor areas, larger classrooms.
- Students also have a professional obligation to follow all CDC guidelines to minimize their risk of becoming Covid-19 positive while outside of their healthcare environments. Having any member of a healthcare team that tests positive can have significant impact on the entire team and could result in quarantining of other members of the team as guided by CDC and other guidelines. All members of the team therefore have a duty to follow safety guidelines to minimize their risk outside of the healthcare setting. No student or HCP should ever enter the healthcare setting if they become ill and must seek appropriate care immediately. Students who test positive may also be subject to institutional guidelines.

Instructions for Cleaning Face Shields:

- While wearing gloves, carefully wipe the inside, followed by the outside of the face shield or goggles using a clean cloth saturated with neutral detergent solution or cleaner wipe. Carefully wipe the outside of the face shield or goggles using a wipe or clean cloth saturated with EPA-registered hospital disinfectant solution. Wipe the outside of the face shield or goggles with clean water or alcohol to remove residue.
- Fully dry (air dry or use clean absorbent towels).
- Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.

- Tulane Medical Center: The guidelines that have been disseminated to all staff wearing face shields include wiping the protective eyewear/face shield with the purple top PDI wipes (available at both TMC and UMC), which are an ammonia/alcohol compound and is approved for use on surfaces contaminated with COVID-19. The eyewear should ideally be disinfected as HCWs move between patients. As noted in the CDC guidance above, the cleaning products can cause a fogginess to occur on certain plastics. This can be remediated by rinsing with water or wiping with alcohol prep pads. Note: ***Both the inside and outside*** of goggles or shields need to be wiped. Instruction on eye protection use and disinfection are available at nursing stations in TMC.