FAQs regarding COVID and Clinical Learning for Meds 2022 and 2023

As the COVID-19 pandemic remains a concern and risk in clinical learning, we wanted to provide you with key information as well as update commonly asked questions from students. While the guidelines from public health and our health care partners may and will change, these are the current recommendations. As always, you should consult with Public Health if you have any questions or reach out to Learner Experience.

**Commonly asked questions.**

**If you suspect you have COVID 19.**

If you have symptoms consistent with a presentation of COVID 19 or fail the COVID screen for the health facility, please **STAY HOME, self-isolate and follow guidelines from Public Health Ontario.**

You will need to:

- Notify your rotation administrator, preceptor/clinical team, and Jennifer Cordick (London) or Bianca Vasapolli (Windsor) and Dr. Northcott (snorthc2@uwo.ca) of any short-notice absence.
- Log the absence in the Schulich Hub ([https://hub.schulich.uwo.ca](https://hub.schulich.uwo.ca)). Jennifer, Bianca, and/or the Clerkship Leads will then guide you on your next steps. Arrange to get a COVID test as soon as possible as you may not be able to return to work without a negative test result. The turn around time for test results at the community assessment centres is normally 24 hours.

In Windsor, please notify Employee Health at Windsor Regional Hospital at 519-995-1854 or 519-995-0324. Identify yourself as a Year 3 or Year 4 Medical Student with the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. Students based in London hospitals do not need to notify Occupational Health regarding a failed COVID screen. You will only notify them if you test positive.

Students in a Distributed Education (DE) or community-based practice Family Medicine site, are recommended to contact the local public health unit, DE/ Clinical Department and faculty preceptor. Isolation would occur in a location discussed with Public Health and DE until their COVID swab is negative or positive. Students must notify the DE Office and the rotation clinical department Clerkship lead for the learning experience.

**If you are diagnosed with COVID-19**

If your status after screening is positive – you **MUST STAY HOME, self-isolate and follow guidelines from Public Health Ontario.**

You must notify:
Your rotation administrator, preceptor/clinical team, Dr. Northcott (snorthc2@uwo.ca), Jennifer Cordick (London) or Bianca Vasapolli (Windsor).

In London (LHSC/SJHC) notify Occupational Health at the hospital where you are working.

In Windsor, please notify Employee Health at Windsor Regional Hospital at 519 995 1854 or 519 995-0324.

The MD Program by registering the absence in the Schulich Hub (https://hub.schulich.uwo.ca).

Occupational Health and Employee Health will want to know all you have had contact with, particularly while not wearing PPE. If you have concerns about contacting Occupational Health, Drs. Tsui, Wyllie or Northcott can assist. Learner Experience is there to provide the supports you may need.

Students who are COVID-19 positive in a Distributed Education (DE) or community-based practice Family Medicine site, are recommended to contact the local public health unit, DE/ Clinical Department and faculty preceptor. Isolation would occur in a location discussed with Public Health and DE for 10 days. You will need to remain off work until you are informed by Public Health that you are able to return to clinical learning. This requires you are symptom free for 72 hours. Students must notify the DE Office and the rotation clinical department Clerkship lead for the learning experience on learning you are COVID positive.

I learned that a patient for whom I had provided care has tested COVID positive. What do I need to do?

During your clinical rotations you should always have the appropriate PPE on when interacting with patients. This means if a patient is later diagnosed as being COVID positive you will be notified but no action is required. As long you were wearing your PPE and donning and doffing appropriately, you can continue in clinical learning. You will need to self monitor according to public health guidelines and seek care if your screening tool changes to positive.

If you have concerns about the PPE used or a break in your technique, you will need to stay home and get tested.

I learned that a clinician or health professional with whom I worked closely with has tested COVID 19 positive. What do I need to do?

During your clinical rotations you should always have the appropriate PPE on when interacting with patients, clinicians, other health professionals, residents and colleagues. This scenario of contact with a masked faculty or colleague who was COVID compliant in technique requires no action besides self screening daily.
If a team or health care worker is later diagnosed as being COVID-19 positive, you will be notified. If you were wearing the appropriate PPE and followed technique, **no action** is required (besides self monitoring) and you can continue to work in clinical learning.

If you have concerns about the PPE used or technique followed, you will need to stay home and get tested.

**What do I do if I have had “Close Contact” with someone who is COVID positive?**

**What is a “Close Contact”?**

A close contact is an individual with whom you have had a high-risk exposure. This can include individuals living together in the same household while not self-isolating; direct contact with infectious body fluids (cough, sneezed on); close (<2m) or prolonged, unprotected contact.

Close Contact is defined by the CDC as:

**Close Contact through Proximity and Duration of Exposure:** Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, *three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes*). An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation.


**Are you fully immunized?**

**NO** You should self isolate and get tested right away. If your test is negative, it is recommended that you re-test on or after day 7. According to the latest Ontario Guidelines, ([Appendix 11 High Risk Contact Flow Chart](gov.on.ca)) you are required to self-isolate for ten days following your last exposure even if you test negative.

**YES** If you have any symptoms of COVID you should self-isolate and get tested right away. If your test is positive, you must self-isolate for ten days.

If you do not have symptoms, you may not be required to self-isolate (determined by individual health units) but **you will not pass** the hospital screen. You should get tested, email Dr. Northcott (snorthc2@uwo.ca) and report this as an absence (even if you do not have mandatory or in-person sessions) via The Hub.
We will then determine next steps. You will need to self-monitor, follow public health measures like wearing a mask outside and get retested if you develop symptoms.

**My housemate has been diagnosed with COVID. What do I need to do?**

*If you have any symptoms of COVID* you should self-isolate and get tested right away. If your test is positive you must self-isolate for ten days.

*If you do not have symptoms* you may not be required to self-isolate (determined by individual health units) but you may not pass the clinic screen or the University screen. You will need to self-monitor, follow public health measures (like wearing a mask outside) and get tested if you develop symptoms.

You will need to self-isolate at home or in a separate residence and arrange for COVID testing. Your housemate will need to stay in a separate room away from other people and use a separate bathroom if possible. Please email Dr. Northcott (snorthc2@uwo.ca) and report this as an absence (even if you do not have mandatory or in-person sessions) via The Hub (https://hub.schulich.uwo.ca).

You can call the School for support if this arises (519-661-4234 or learner.experience@schulich.uwo.ca)

**My housemate has symptoms of COVID and is awaiting test results. What do I need to do?**

If you do not have symptoms, you can continue to attend on campus. You will need to self-monitor, follow public health measures (like wearing a mask outside) and get tested if you develop symptoms.

If you develop signs or symptoms of COVID-19 you must **remain at home, self-isolate and follow guidelines from Public Health Ontario**. You will need to be tested for COVID-19 and report this as an absence (even if you do not have mandatory or in-person sessions) via The Hub (https://hub.schulich.uwo.ca). You will need to be tested for COVID.

**What if my housemate/partner works in an outbreak site or ward?**

Your housemate/partner will need to follow the guidelines as outlined by Public Health and IPAC at their hospital and you should monitor daily for symptoms of COVID. You can continue to participate in clinical learning unless your housemate/partner is symptomatic and/or tests positive.
My housemate received notification from the COVID Alert app that they were in contact with someone who has tested COVID positive or Public Heath has notified my housemate that they were identified as a “Close Contact” of someone with COVID. What do I need to do?

Your housemate will need to be tested for COVID-19. As long as you are asymptomatic, you can continue clinical learning and continue to monitor closely and regularly for COVID symptoms.

If your housemate develops symptoms you can continue in clinical learning but if you develop symptoms you must stay home and report this as an absence (even if you do not have mandatory or in-person sessions) via The Hub (https://hub.schulich.uwo.ca). You will need to be tested for COVID.

I received notification from the COVID Alert app that I was in contact with someone who has tested positive. What do I need to do?

As per Public Health Ontario, https://covid-19.ontario.ca/exposed, if you are notified by the COVID Alert app, or think you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, you must get tested. Stay home and self-isolate until you get your result. If this requires you to miss mandatory clinical or learning time please report this as an absence via The Hub (https://hub.schulich.uwo.ca).

If your test is positive you will need to continue to self-isolate as directed by Public Health and report this as an absence (even if you do not have mandatory or in-person sessions) via The Hub (https://hub.schulich.uwo.ca). Also, follow-up with your contacts as soon as you can with time-sensitive advice such as get tested or self isolate.

If your test is negative, you can return to learning but continue to monitor.

Can I participate in Virtual Patient Care while self isolating or recovering from COVID-19?

According to the MD Program Guideline on students participating in virtual care, due to privacy regulations you are not allowed to be involved in virtual care outside of the health care facility structure. This would prevent you from undertaking this aspect of patient care.

When will I make up my clinical learning if I am off?

Your curriculum has been created to allow for time away from clinical learning due to the Pandemic and individualized advanced clinical learning. You can complete your
Clerkship or your Clinical Electives rotation/elective in April-May for Meds 2022 or July – August for Meds 2023.

Where can I get a COVID test as a medical student?

In London
As of November 19, 2020, London campus students can receive testing at the LHSC COVID-19 Testing Centre. To access testing for yourself, complete the perimeter screening tool and the appointment request webform and you will be contacted by the Centre by the next business day. The same webform is to be used for requesting a test for dependent children. The Testing Centre is located in Building 14 at VH, above the Wellness Centre and is open from Monday to Friday from 7:00 am - 1:00 pm

Additionally, you may attend one of the community testing centres. Information on the locations and hours of the centres (including Western’s testing centre) can be found here: https://www.healthunit.com/covid-19-concerns#testing-locations

In Windsor
Windsor campus students in need of a COVID-19 test can book an appointment through https://www.wrh.on.ca/COVID19AssessmentCentre. Please mention that you are a Schulich student as this may allow your results to be fast-tracked. You can also find information on the local testing centres here: https://www.wechu.org/cv/getting-tested-and-checking-results

Clinical learners that are being tested should connect with Employee Health so this can be tracked.
Ouellette Campus: Karen Watson – karen.watson@wrh.on.ca 519-254-5577 ext. 32525
Met Campus: Krista Miller- krista.miller@wrh.on.ca 519-254-5577 ext. 52588
Additional phone numbers for Employee Health: 519-995-1854 or 519-995-0324
Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare- 519-257-5111 x 73360

If you have any questions, please reach out to learner.experience@schulich.uwo.ca

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