FAQs regarding COVID and Clinical Learning for Meds 2024 and 2025

As the COVID-19 pandemic remains a concern, 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 University or health facility, please **STAY HOME**, self-isolate and follow the guidelines from Public Health Ontario.

You will need to:
- Notify the facilitator if you are missing in-person small group or mandatory sessions.
- Log the absence in the Schulich Hub ([https://hub.schulich.uwo.ca](https://hub.schulich.uwo.ca)) even if you have no mandatory or in-person sessions.
- Arrange to get a COVID test as soon as possible as you may not be able to return to school without a negative test result. The turn around time for test results at the community assessment centres is normally 24 hours.

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 the facilitator, if you are missing an in-person small group or mandatory session.
- Log the absence in the Schulich Hub ([https://hub.schulich.uwo.ca](https://hub.schulich.uwo.ca)) even if you have no mandatory or in-person sessions.
- Notify Learner Experience by emailing Dr. Northcott ([snorthc2@uwo.ca](mailto:snorthc2@uwo.ca))
- Remain off school 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.

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 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.

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

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?**

The answer depends on the following:

**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)](https://www.gov.on.ca/)) you are required to self-isolate for ten days following you 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 and may not pass the University 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 (https://hub.schulich.uwo.ca) 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 hospital 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.

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 contact 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?**

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 you develop symptoms of COVID-19, you must remain at 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.

**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.

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

In London

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 find information on the local testing centres here: https://www.wechu.org/cv/getting-tested-and-checking-results

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

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