

COVID and Clinical Learning for Learners in London and Windsor

Meds 2024 and 2025

Updated May 26, 2023

As COVID-19 remains a concern and a 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 or Occupational Health if you have any questions. You can also reach out to Learner Experience.

Commonly asked questions

I suspect I have COVID / failed the COVID-19 Screening Tool (Please ensure you are completing the screener for the hospital or clinic where you are working)**

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.

- Notify your rotation administrator and preceptor/clinical team.
- Log the absence in the Schulich Hub (<https://hub.schulich.uwo.ca>) under the appropriate COVID category (suspected/positive/in home).
- You are **no longer required** to complete a PCR or RAT COVID test.
- If you have **respiratory symptoms**, you may return to work when fever free and symptoms have been improving for 24 hours. Continuous use of a medical mask is required everywhere in the hospital until the end of Day 10 from symptom onset. A 2-metre distance should be maintained if the mask is removed for eating or drinking in this 10-day period.
- If you have **gastrointestinal symptoms**, you may return to work when fever free and symptoms have been improving for 48 hours. Continuous use of a medical mask is required everywhere in the hospital until the end of Day 10 from symptom onset. A 2-metre distance should be maintained if the mask is removed for eating or drinking in this 10-day period.
- In **London** you are no longer required to notify Occupational Health.
- In **Windsor** please report any acute respiratory illness to Employee Health.
 - *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
- **Students in a Distributed Education (DE) or community-based practice Family Medicine site**
 - Notify the DE Office, the rotation clinical department Clerkship lead and their faculty preceptor for the learning experience. Isolation would occur in a location discussed with DE. DE can be contacted at: Distributed.Education@schulich.uwo.ca. The Family Medicine Rotation Administrator can be contacted at: fmundergrad@schulich.uwo.ca
 - Inform the local site occupational health and follow their protocols. Please note that long term care facilities have much more stringent policies.

If you are diagnosed with COVID-19

- Notify your rotation administrator and preceptor/clinical team.
- Log the absence in the Schulich Hub (<https://hub.schulich.uwo.ca>) under the appropriate COVID category (suspected/positive/in home).
- If you have **respiratory symptoms**, you may return to work when fever free and symptoms have been improving for 24 hours. Continuous use of a medical mask is required everywhere in the hospital until the end of Day 10 from symptom onset. A 2-metre distance should be maintained if the mask is removed for eating or drinking in this 10-day period.
- If you have **gastrointestinal symptoms**, you may return to work when fever free and symptoms have been improving for 48 hours. Continuous use of a medical mask is required everywhere in the hospital until the end of Day 10 from symptom onset. A 2-metre distance should be maintained if the mask is removed for eating or drinking in this 10-day period.
- In **London** you are no longer required to notify Occupational Health.
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I learned that a patient for whom I had provided care or a health professional with whom I worked closely 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. If you have an exposure while in full PPE, no action is required. If you have an exposure without PPE, you can continue in clinical learning. Masks will be required in all areas of the building until the end of Day 10 from exposure. A 2-metre distance should be maintained if the mask is removed for eating or drinking in this 10-day period. You will need to self-monitor according to public health guidelines and seek care if your screening tool changes to positive.

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

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?

We understand that you may miss clinical time due to isolation protocols.

For clerkship, Rotation/Academic Directors will need to consider whether makeup time is required based on the student's performance during the rotation – if satisfactory, then potentially no makeup time will be required. However, in some cases, where a significant amount of time has been lost on a rotation, there will be insufficient assessments done for a student or certain clinical/logbook encounters missed, then makeup time will be needed. In terms of when makeup time can be scheduled, some students may still have the option of using their open selective time. Alternatively, time can be scheduled during vacation time in August or during the first elective block in Year 4.

For electives, makeup time can be scheduled during the spring of year 4 (post-CaRMS interviews).

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

In London

Information on community testing can be found here: <https://www.healthunit.com/covid-19-concerns>

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 or learnerexperience@uwindsor.ca