

COVID and Clinical Learning for Learners in London - Meds 2023 and 2024

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 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).
- Arrange to get a COVID test (RAT or PCR) as soon as possible. The turnaround time for test results at the community assessment centres is normally 24 hours. If you test negative for COVID you may return once your symptoms are resolving – 24 hours for respiratory and 48 hours for GI.

In London, please notify Occupational Health at LHSC – extension 42827 or St Joseph’s – extension 66398. Identify yourself as a Year 3 or Year 4 Medical Student with the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

Students in a Distributed Education (DE) or community-based practice Family Medicine site, must 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 until their COVID status is determined.

Distributed Education can be contacted at: Distributed.Education@schulich.uwo.ca. The Family Medicine Rotation Administrator can be contacted at: fmundergrad@schulich.uwo.ca

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.

Clinical Clerks must notify:

- Your rotation administrator and preceptor/clinical team.
- Occupational Health at LHSC – extension 42827 or St Joseph’s – extension 66398.

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

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, Learner Experience can assist. Learner Experience is there to provide the supports you may need.

Student in a DE Site:

Students who are COVID-19 positive in a Distributed Education (DE) or community-based practice Family Medicine site, are recommended to contact DE and faculty preceptor. Isolation would occur in a location discussed with Public Health and DE. 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 24 hours. Students must notify the DE Office and the rotation clinical department Clerkship lead for the learning experience once confirmed you are COVID positive.

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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 as 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 connect with Occupational Health, as they may require rapid antigen testing.

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.

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 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 a minimum of five days as per Public Health Guidelines.

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 will be required to rapid test every day for the duration of the household contacts isolation period. Please notify Occupational Health. You will need to self-monitor, follow public health measures like wearing a mask outside and get retested if you develop symptoms.

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

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 form at www.covidtestinglm.ca. The same form is to be used for requesting a test for dependent children. The Testing Centre is located in Building 24 at VH, and is open from Monday to Friday from 9:00 am - 6:30 pm.

Additionally, you may attend one of the community testing centres. Information on the locations and hours of the centres <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 still 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