



Guidelines for Nursing Schools Safe Return to Practice Based Learning Environment



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Introduction

The health and safety of students, faculty, patients, families and Children's National employees remain a top priority at Children's National. As we begin to move forward with returning nursing faculty and students back into the practice based environment of experiential learning, we acknowledge that it must be done so in consideration of current scientific knowledge.

Therefore, the guidelines and protocols in this document are aligned with federal, state, local and Children's National recommendations.

We expect that our academic partners will recognize that the guidelines and protocols must be adhered to in order to ensure the highest level of safety for all.

Return to Clinical Strategy

Children's National provides experiential learning opportunities for nearly 600 nursing students annually, in partnership with over 50 academic nursing school partners. In recent months the disruption in healthcare resulted in an immediate action to minimize the risk for COVID-19 transmission by reducing the number of healthcare personnel and students to Children's National. This action resulted in a significant impact to the nursing student's academic progress, specifically the opportunity to have and complete required clinical placements.

In an effort to meet the learning needs of nursing students, Children's National has developed a strategy to return nursing faculty and students back through a tiered process.

Tier	Clinical Group	Summer 2020	Fall 2020	Spring 2021
Tier 1	Children's National Employee-Graduate Student Placements	X		
Tier 2	Undergraduate/Graduate Non Clinical (Virtual Placement ONLY)	X		
Tier 3	Undergraduate/Graduate Practicum Placements (DC, MD, VA Nursing Schools ONLY)		X	
Tier 4	Undergraduate Clinical Groups (DC, MD, VA Schools ONLY)		X Sept 8- Nov 14	
Tier 5	Undergraduate/Graduate Clinical Groups & Practicum Placements (ALL NURSING Schools)	TBD		



Approval Process

This process will include a rigorous review of each request to ensure that the nursing school can meet the requirements for return to clinical. Additionally, we will continuously review the return to clinical guidelines based on changing guidance related to PPE requirements, physical distancing and patient safety.

- Academic partners will continue to submit requests using the current process for both undergraduate and graduate students.
- Nursing schools must assess students for ADA or other accommodations in advance and determine student eligibility prior to a request for clinical placement.
- Please note that for clinical group placement requests we may limit the total number of requests per school and/or reduce the total number of students per clinical group.
- Nursing schools will be asked to outline their screening process for COVID-19 and provide the required clinical placement criteria.

Clinical Placement Requirements							
	Occupational Health Screen	Background Screen	Sex Offender Screen	Pre-Screen	Acknowledgement of Risk Form	Face Mask	Goggles
Virtual Placement	X	X	X				
Onsite Placement	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Clinical placements decisions will be selected based on several factors, including but not limited to:

1. PPE requirements/availability
2. Clinical care guidelines
3. Availability of clinical sites/locations/preceptors



Children's National will provide guidelines for screening, quarantine and PPE use for reference (See Guidelines for Nursing Clinical Faculty/Student returning to Children's National Hospital for Clinical Placements).

If the required PPE cannot be provided by the nursing school to the nursing student, the request for clinical placement(s) will not be approved.

Required Education

In response to the changing requirements for transmission based precautions and infection control all non-Children's clinical faculty and nursing students will be required to complete e-learning modules. These modules will be included in the required orientation e-learning bundles that must be completed prior to beginning any clinical placement.

Reporting COVID-19 Screening/Symptoms/Exposure

Clinical faculty and/or students will be required to complete a one-time pre-screening tool prior to approval for clinical placements.

Clinical faculty and/or students who experience symptoms and/or have a COVID-19 exposure during clinical placement will be required to follow the Children's National reporting process (outlined in the Guidelines for Nursing Clinical Faculty/Student returning to Children's National Hospital for Clinical Placements).



Guidelines for Nursing Clinical Faculty/Student returning to Children's National Hospital for Clinical Placements

1. Clinical rotations/practicum placements will resume based on the tiered strategy and revised approval process.
 - a. Currently approving Tier 1, 2, 3 and 4
 - b. Undergraduate clinical groups will only be approved for placements between Sept 8, 2020 – Nov 14, 2020
 - c. Undergraduate/Graduate Practicum student will be approved to complete the required course hours for clinical placement
 - d. Final approval for any placement will depend on PPE availability, location and preceptor availability

2. Prior to approval for clinical placement clinical faculty/students must complete all clinical placement requirements, including a one-time pre-screening tool
 - a. A link to complete and submit an electronic copy of this form will be sent to clinical faculty/student approved for clinical placement

3. Clinical faculty/student will also be expected to screen themselves for the following daily symptoms prior to arriving at any Children's National Hospital location:
 - a temperature of > 100.0 degrees F
 - shortness of breath
 - a new cough
 - loss of smell/taste
 - chills/shakes
 - headache
 - sore throat
 - new muscle/body aches

If the clinical faculty/student answers yes to any of these questions they are not allowed onsite for clinical experience and must follow up with their school representative and notify their preceptor/ Children's National coordinator.

- a) Clinical faculty/student who have a recent diagnosis of COVID must at a minimum follow the Children's National return to work criteria, which includes the following:
 - Home quarantine for at least 14 days from the onset of symptoms

- b) If the student/faculty has a suspected or confirmed exposure due to close contact with a COVID positive person the student/faculty cannot report to

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Contents in this guideline are subject to change at any time



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Children's National, must report the exposure to the clinical leader at CN, and should follow up with their school representative to report the exposure and follow their institutions guidelines for exposure and quarantine

- c) If you should develop symptoms during the clinical day, the clinical faculty/student must inform their clinical faculty/preceptor and clinical leader (charge nurse, provider, and manager) for possible exposure follow up, leave the clinical site and follow up with their school representative.
 - d) Any clinical faculty/student that experiences symptoms or has as an exposure **must also** complete the Children's National COVID-19 symptom/exposure reporting.
 - o A link to complete and submit an electronic copy of this form will be sent to clinical faculty/student approved for clinical placement
4. Each school is responsible for having each clinical faculty/student sign a *Children's Hospital Acknowledgement of Risk* (see Addendum A) form prior to starting rotations.
- a. A link to complete and submit an electronic copy of this form will be sent to clinical faculty/student approved for clinical placement
5. Clinical faculty/students are required to wear a face mask upon entering into any Children's National location.
- a. **Cloth face masks are not permitted in the hospital for clinical faculty/students**
 - b. Face masks must be worn at all times while on CN premises, except for meals.
 - c. Masks must cover nose and mouth.
 - d. Masks must also be worn on the CN shuttles.
6. All student/faculty must abide by physical distancing at all times except when conducting patient care activities which require closer physical proximity.
7. Failure to comply with the PPE and physical distancing requirements will result in an immediate dismissal of the clinical faculty and/or nursing student and may impact future approval of clinical placement for the associated nursing school program.

**ROTATING STUDENT/FACULTY
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY
RELATING TO CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19**

I, _____ (print name), will be participating as a Student or Faculty/Clinical Instructor in a clinical/occupational experience at a Children's National Hospital location pursuant to an affiliation agreement between Children's National Hospital, for itself and its affiliates ("Children's") and my/the college/university/educational institution,

_____ (Name of College/University/Institution)
("Institution"). By signing below, I acknowledge that I understand and agree as follows:

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. Current data suggest person-to-person transmission most commonly occurs during close exposure to a person infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. Federal, state, and local governments and federal and state health agencies recommend that healthcare facilities take certain precautions as part of the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including recommended infection prevention and control practices.

Student/faculty will be required to wear a mask at all times, including shuttle buses. All clinical staff must wear masks and goggles for all patient interactions. Masks for general wear, including goggles and medical grade masks for general patient interactions will not be provided by Children's. Children's will provide the level of personal protective (PPE) equipment consistent with current Children's policies and practices for caring for non-COVID-19 patients, which will include isolation gowns, gloves and surgical masks as needed for patients with other infectious diseases requiring precautions. Students will not be assigned to designated COVID-19 units, nor be assigned to patients who are COVID-19 Positive or PUI (Person/Patient Under Investigation) for COVID-19, and thus student/faculty will not be fitted for and/or provided a N95 mask, face shield, goggles and will not be taught how to use PAPR (powered air-purifying respirator).

During the clinical placement experience, I agree to abide by all Children's National policies, procedures, and directives with respect to preventing the spread of COVID-19, including but not limited to requirements of daily symptoms attestations and temperature checks, maintaining physical distancing, hand hygiene, and wearing surgical masks throughout the clinical day.

While Children's has put in place preventative measures to reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19 in accordance with applicable CDC and state agency guidance, Children's cannot guarantee that anyone present on its premises will not become infected with COVID-19.

By signing this form, I acknowledge that I am voluntarily choosing to present for a clinical/occupational experience at Children's and that I understand that participating in the clinical/occupational experience in a healthcare setting could increase my risk of contracting COVID-19.

Accordingly, by signing this agreement, I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and

voluntarily assume the risk that I may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by participating in the clinical placement experience at Children’s, and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. I voluntarily agree to assume the foregoing risk and accept sole responsibility for any injury to myself (including, but not limited to, personal injury, disability, illness, and death), damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, relating to COVID-19, that I may experience or incur in connection with my participation in the clinical/occupational experience (“Claims”).

I hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless Children’s and its employees, agents, and representatives with respect to the Claims, including all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs, or expenses of a kind arising out of or relating thereto. I understand and agree that this release includes any Claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of Children’s, its employees, agents, and representatives, and other participants in the clinical/occupational experience, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after participation in the clinical/occupational experience.

I have read and understand this Acknowledgment of Risk Form and have signed this form voluntarily.

Date _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____