

Queen's Faculty of Health Sciences students working with COVID-19 patients

V.4 Approved January 4, 2021 by the FHS COVID-19 Working Group

The Queen's University Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) is committed to ensuring students graduate with the necessary skills to safely care for patients who have tested positive for COVID-19. The following principles are intended to ensure students in the School of Nursing, School of Rehabilitation Therapy and Undergraduate Medical Education can meet their clinical learning objectives while minimizing their risk of COVID-19. This policy does not apply to Postgraduate Medical Education students. This information is current as of December 22, 2020 and may be updated as the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve.

1. FHS students should adhere to any restrictions on student activities imposed by the facility where they are working and follow all guidelines from local/provincial/territorial/federal governments and public health authorities.
2. FHS students should only have direct contact with COVID-19 positive patients if required to meet their clinical learning objectives. The School of Nursing, School of Rehabilitation Therapy and School of Medicine should select clinical placements for their students at the lowest risk level for COVID-19 that meets their learning objectives. The following list is a hierarchy of risk scenarios to guide the selection of placements for students with COVID-19 positive patients from lowest risk (I) to highest risk (V).
 - I. Students participate in patient care decisions/case management rounds for COVID-19 positive patients in a setting that does not have a COVID-19 outbreak, but do not provide direct physical care for patients with probable or confirmed COVID-19.
 - II. Students participate in patient care decisions/case management rounds for COVID-19 positive patients in a facility with a COVID-19 outbreak, but do not provide direct physical care for patients with probable or confirmed COVID-19.
 - III. Students provide direct physical care for patients with probable or confirmed COVID-19 in a facility that does not have a COVID-19 outbreak.
 - IV. Students provide direct physical care for patients with probable or confirmed COVID-19 in a facility with a partial COVID-19 outbreak (e.g. outbreak on one floor or wing).
 - V. Students provide direct physical care for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 in a location with a facility-wide outbreak of COVID-19.
3. FHS student involvement with COVID-19 positive patients will be at the discretion of their School. Should the School decide that involvement with COVID-19 patients is required to meet clinical learning objectives, it may take place provided the following conditions have been met:
 - a. The learner does not have a [medical condition](#) recognized by the Government of Canada as putting them at higher risk of more severe disease or outcomes from COVID-19 and they are not a caregiver for a person at higher risk of more severe disease or outcomes from COVID-19;
 - b. The learner has supply to appropriate PPE as per current public health guidelines;
 - c. The learner has been instructed on the appropriate use of the PPE supplied and has demonstrated their ability to use the PPE effectively;

- d. The supervisor/instructor/preceptor feels that it is reasonable for the learner to have protected contact with the patient/client; and,
 - e. The clinical site's policy or practices allow for learners to have contact with patients who are identified as COVID-19 [probable and/or confirmed cases](#).
4. When providing direct care for patients with probable or confirmed COVID-19, preference should be given to caring for patients who are no longer in their period of communicability whenever possible.
5. FHS students should only participate in an aerosol generating medical procedure (AGMP) for a patient with probable or confirmed COVID-19 if their School decides that it is required to meet clinical learning objectives and the following conditions have been met;
- a. The learner has been fit tested for an N95 mask;
 - b. The learner can safely don and doff the appropriate PPE to participate in the AGMP; and,
 - c. There is a sufficient supply of PPE to allow the student to assist with the AGMP.