



COVID-19 procedures for UGME policies – Academic year 2020-2021

Approved By: MDCM Program Committee

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Updated by: Associate Dean, UGME

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Pertinent to: MDCM students

Purpose: Complimentary procedures applicable to existing UGME policies during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please note that **this document is subject to change** to ensure a timely response to the pandemic.

Preamble

COVID-related procedures as they relate to the below existing UGME policies:

- Absences & Leaves
- Accommodations
- Family Medicine in rural settings
- Electives for block 3 of academic year 2019-2020
- Dress code in clinical settings
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Mask fit
- Telemedicine
- Exposure to patients with confirmed COVID infections

Procedures

1. Absences and Leaves

1.1. COVID-related leaves

- 1.1.1. During a clinical course or a course with clinical sessions in the healthcare setting, a student who develops symptoms associated with COVID-19 infection **MUST** immediately contact the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Office of the site where s/he is working or had been working and **MUST** follow instructions given by the OHS Office.

- 1.1.2. During a clinical course or course with clinical sessions in the healthcare setting, a student with confirmed COVID-19 or put on self-isolation measures by OHS MUST inform the clerkship component coordinator (clinicaladmin.med@mcgill.ca) for clerkship courses and the course administrators for the other courses.
- 1.1.3. A COVID-19-related leave may result in a rotation or segment of a rotation or a course being incomplete. Such a leave does not cause a course failure. A student in this situation will need to complete his/her rotation or clinical experience when allowed back into the clinical setting or at a later time.
- 1.1.4. Special circumstances: COVID-19 infection prior to the start or resumption of clinical courses:
 - a. A student working in a CHLSD who develops symptoms associated with COVID-19 infection MUST immediately contact the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Office of the CIUSSS where s/he is working and MUST follow instructions given by the OHS Office. If COVID-19 infection is confirmed, the student MUST inform the clerkship component coordinator (clinicaladmin.med@mcgill.ca) for clerkship courses or course administrators for the other courses so that the student's schedule can be adapted prior to the beginning of his/her clerkship or other courses.
 - b. A student who develops symptoms associated with COVID-19 infection MUST immediately contact 418 644-4545, 514 644-4545, 450 644-4545, 819 644-4545 or 1 877 644-4545 (free of charge) elsewhere in Quebec and MUST follow instructions given by the resource lines. If COVID-infection is confirmed, the student MUST inform the clerkship component coordinator (clerkcoord.med@mcgill.ca) for clerkship course or course administrators for the other courses so that the student's schedule can be adapted prior to the beginning of his/her clerkship or other courses. The UGME office will then inform the OHS Office of their upcoming rotation and inform them that follow-up is required for that student.
- 1.2. Non COVID-19-related leaves:
 - 1.2.1. Students must follow the [Absences & Leaves Policy](#) and [procedures](#) to request short-term leaves.
 - 1.2.2. It is strongly recommended to book all non-urgent appointments for flex days/personal days outside working hours or during time off. As clinical exposure may be reduced, it is important to use all clinical opportunities available to students.
- 1.3. Impact of all absences and leaves on a course:
 - 1.3.1. For Clerkship, in order for a course to be complete, a student must have done 80% of the course and 80% each segment within the course.
 - 1.3.2. For FMD, Physicianship, and TCP courses, the standard 75% rule of the [Absences and Leaves Policy](#) remains in effect.

2. Accommodations related to COVID

- 2.1. Students requiring accommodations related to COVID must proactively contact the [Assistant Dean, Student Affairs](#). Possible examples of situations where accommodations could be required are, but not limited to, a student with a chronic medical condition requiring active treatment, a student with a chronic medical condition or receiving treatment causing an immunocompromised state, a pregnant student or a breastfeeding student. Depending on the

specific situation, possible examples of accommodations include site accommodations or, medium or long-term leaves.

- 2.1.1. Given the current pandemic epidemiology, there is no clinical learning environment that is COVID-19 risk-free. The goal of these accommodations is to mitigate risk of transmission for students in the above situations.
 - 2.1.2. For pregnant or breastfeeding students (based on the latest recommendations from the [INSPQ COVID-19 \(SARS-CoV-2\) : Recommandations intérimaires sur les mesures de prévention en milieux de travail pour les travailleuses enceintes ou qui allaitent March 27, 2020](#)) and students with specific chronic medical conditions causing important levels of immunosuppression (based on the latest recommendations from the [INSPQ COVID-19 \(SARS-CoV-2\) Recommandations intérimaires pour la protection des travailleurs immunosupprimés](#)): If a student in such situation decides to pursue clerkship or a clinical course during the pandemic, certain accommodations will be put in place, as the INSPQ recommends that the precautionary principle guides our actions. Therefore, a student should apply social distancing measures with patients, colleagues, staff, residents and other employees at work. If it is not possible to maintain a 2-meter distance, a student must wear protective equipment such as ocular protection and mask or there must a protective physical measure (such as a window). A student will not be allowed to care for patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases. Depending on the local pandemic epidemiology, individual clinical courses may not be offered to students in these specific situations.
 - 2.1.3. Only the Assistant Dean, Student Affairs can approve accommodations related to COVID-19.
- 2.2. Concerning completion of year 3 clerkship in Gatineau or the family medicine course in a rural setting, special circumstances relating to medical status and personal/familial circumstances will be considered when selection of students will occur. Students facing these special circumstances should contact the [Assistant Dean, Students Affairs](#).

3. Selection of students for family medicine course in rural settings for class of 2022

- 3.1. For family medicine rural settings, selection of students will occur according to the following process:s
 - a. Students who are interested in completing their family medicine course in a rural site MUST e-mail the clerkship component administrator at clinicaladmin.med@mcgill.ca as soon as possible.
 - b. If there are more students than places available, students will be randomly picked amongst students who have expressed an interest.
 - c. If places are left after volunteers were assigned and there is no room to accommodate the remaining learners in Montreal based sites, a random lottery will be held to select additional students to go to family medicine rural sites.

4. Electives booking for classes of 2021 and 2022

- 4.1. Students will have up to 2 weeks (previously 8 weeks) prior to the start of the electives to confirm electives in the McGill electives platform.
- 4.2. A list of available electives will be available for you on the electives webpage. As electives capacity is changing from week to week and electives get booked, the document will be updated twice

weekly to function as a capacity report.

5. Dress code in the clinical settings

5.1. In addition to the UGME Dress Code, the MSSS recommends that each healthcare worker or student have a separate set of clothes (including dedicated shoes) for the clinical setting. Street clothes are recommended when arriving to and leaving the hospital. Students are responsible for washing their work clothes daily.

5.1.1. Students should verify the dress code policy in effect at their local site with their course administrators, as some healthcare institutions have more restrictive dress codes, which can include wearing scrubs provided by the hospital.

5.2. ID cards are required to enter clinical settings, therefore, students should always bring their McGill ID card with them and remember to bring it back home at the end of each day.

6. Infection Prevention and Control

6.1. General measures: students should follow general infection control measures such as frequent hand washing, coughing/sneezing in one's elbow and washing hands after.

6.2. Health questionnaire: students will be asked about COVID-19 associated symptoms upon arrival at buildings on McGill campus and any clinical settings. If a student answers in the affirmative to any of these questions, access to the building or clinical setting will not be allowed.

6.3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

6.3.1. Clinical sites and hospitals will ensure that students have access to the same PPE as attending physicians and residents. Students must follow the same infection prevention protocols. In addition to training offered by McGill University, the Office of the Director of Education at each of our partner institutions will offer local training either online, live or a combination of both pertaining to: infection control and donning/doffing PPE. Students, like staff, may bring their own ocular protection, as choices of ocular protection may be limited at some hospitals. Ocular protection must follow these criteria (as per the MUHC Infection Control Office):

Use of personal goggles is permitted if they meet published Health Canada Standards (or CSA-Z94.3). In general, the goggles should:

- fit securely on the face without any gaps
- measure 20 cm (7.87 inches) width at top
- manufactured with clear poly-carbonate material
- be impact and splash resistant
- be liquid resistant
- be non-glare, anti-fog and provide good vision
- have adjustable head strap
- have indirect, covered air vents and without upward facing openings on the top
- have cleaning instruction provided
- have smooth surfaces and be easy to clean with few crevices
- fit over prescription glasses if required
- be replaced if scratched, pitted, broke, or ill fitting

Please find examples of suitable ocular protection [here](#) and [here](#).

- 6.3.2. PPE will also be required on university campus when in person activities occur. A mask or appropriate face cover must be worn at all times when inside a university building (in common spaces). Masks may be removed in classrooms when social distancing measures can be respected (1.5 m distance between people). For in person learning activities where social distancing measures cannot be maintained (for example for clinical skills or procedure training), masks and ocular protection must be worn at all times.

7. Telemedicine

Students are allowed to participate in telemedicine. All students must have completed their telemedicine training module found on myCourses. This telemedicine training module may be a course requirement for some classes. The CMQ has published [guidelines](#) related to telemedicine and supervision of medical students (available in French).

8. Exposure to patients with confirmed COVID infections

According to the latest [Recommandations intérimaires des mesures sanitaires pour la reprise des stages en santé en contexte de pandémie de la COVID-19](#) from the MSSS and to a letter from Dr. Opatrny, Assistant Deputy Minister, MSSS, students are not allowed to care for patients with confirmed COVID-19 infections. For patients with suspected COVID-19 infections, whether clerks should care for these patients is contingent on their supervisor's clinical judgment. Dr. Opatrny advises of the following in her letter:

The recommendations made at the start of the pandemic to not expose junior learners to confirmed or highly likely cases of COVID-19 remains in effect. Critical judgment should be exercised regarding exposure to patients with COVID-19-like symptoms in the absence of epidemiological context (no close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case), keeping in mind that even in the Montreal region, where there is community spread of the virus, a very low percentage of patients, systematically tested while in hospital, have tested positive. Additionally, the transmission rate varies significantly between regions; therefore, the number of patients suspected of have having the virus will vary depending on local epidemiology.

Examples of how this translates into the clinical setting: if a patient presents with symptoms associated with COVID-19 and is living with someone recently diagnosed with COVID-19, the likelihood that this is a COVID infection is high and therefore, it is not appropriate for a junior learner to see this patient. Another example is a patient presenting with typical symptoms of CHF who has been practicing social distancing measures and has not been in contact with others. While COVID will need to be ruled out due to shortness of breath, the likelihood of this being a COVID-19 infection is lower and therefore, this patient can be seen by a junior learner. In any case, as for all medical personnel, wearing adequate PPE and following infection prevention measures remains the best way to mitigate risk of transmission.

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