



POLICY AND PROCEDURE

VALLEY HEALTH SYSTEM CLINICAL INSTRUCTION RESTART PLAN

POLICY:

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is a policy of Valley Health System and its affiliated entities (“VHS”) to meet the demands of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency while, at the same time, to provide a safe educational environment for observational and/or clinical experiences (“Clinical Experiences”) to students, including those enrolled in a school with whom VHS has an existing student affiliation agreement (“School”), in compliance with all applicable laws, Executive Orders and CDC guidance.

PURPOSE:

To resume on-site observational and clinical instruction at VHS facilities in compliance with all applicable laws, Executive Orders and CDC guidance and to establish expectations and the specific responsibilities of VHS, the School, the students and faculty in making this transition as safe as possible during the pendency of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

PROCEDURE:

I. VHS RESPONSIBILITIES

Until further notice, in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to reduce the potential risk of exposure to VHS patients, visitors, healthcare providers, students and faculty, VHS will perform additional safety measures, which include: (1) Cleaning Protocols; (2) Daily Safety Practices; and (3) Safety Practices Related to Clinical Experiences. The list of Cleaning Protocols and Daily Safety Practices may be updated from time to time and can be found here: <https://www.valleyhealth.com/services/safety-valley>.

A. SAFETY PRACTICES RELATED TO CLINICAL EXPERIENCES

As it relates specifically to Clinical Experiences, the applicable VHS entity and Department shall ensure that:

- All students and faculty receive mandatory training regarding COVID-19 sanitization practices, applicable policies and procedures developed to limit the spread of COVID-19 (including appropriate use of PPE, cleaning of PPE in accordance with CDC guidelines, appropriate handwashing, and education regarding self-monitoring for symptoms), as

well as social distancing requirements as a condition of participating in Clinical Experiences.

- There is frequent cleaning and sanitization of classrooms, restrooms, high-touch areas, equipment and shared surfaces.
- Adequate supplies, such as personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies, are maintained, including hand sanitizing stations throughout VHS buildings.
- Students and Faculty will be provided with and required to wear masks that are appropriate for the level of potential exposure in the respective assigned clinical rotation in accordance with CDC guidelines (e.g., cloth facemasks may be provided/required in certain clinical settings whereas N95 face shields may be provided/required if warranted by the clinical situation), except when doing so would inhibit the individual's health.
- Updates on any new and existing guidance for precautions for self-protection will be communicated to School, students and faculty, as appropriate.
- Students and faculty will not be assigned to isolation patients including + COVID-19 and PUI patients (exceptions may apply to Advanced Practice Provider and EMT/Paramedic students). Students of the School of Radiology will not be assigned to patients with suspected or confirmed highly contagious life-threatening diseases and/or viruses, such as Ebola and/or COVID-19 and will not rotate through areas that are of higher-risk for potential COVID-19 patients such as the Emergency Room. This will be closely monitored and adjusted accordingly.
- School will be provided with information relating to known or suspected COVID-19 exposures affecting students or faculty, in accordance with HIPAA regulations.
- So as to enable appropriate social distancing and to reduce on-site crowding, clinical group rotations may be limited at the discretion of VHS. If needed, rotations and/or shifts will be adjusted and start, break and end times will be staggered. Students will be separated and assigned patients who are in different hallways, where practicable.
- Observation experiences to specialty areas throughout The Valley Hospital are suspended until further notice.
- To the extent possible, VHS will try to develop an option for remote instruction for any students and/or faculty who are unable to participate in in-person instruction; this may not be possible for all programs.
- A health screening is performed for all faculty and students. To the extent there is a faculty member on-site in connection with a particular clinical program, the faculty member shall be responsible for performing the health screening, as described below. If no faculty member is on-site in connection with a particular clinical program, the appropriate Department Manager or VHS liaison shall be responsible for screening and completing the Temperature and Symptom Log for each student each day (before entry to the facility).

II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL

Until further notice, the School shall ensure that students and faculty comply with the following:

- School shall advise students and faculty of their responsibility to conduct themselves in accordance with VHS' applicable rules, regulations, policies and procedures, as may be amended from time to time. VHS policies and procedures may change with more frequency and on short notice during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, as the circumstances and legal requirements continue to evolve; students and faculty are responsible for complying with all such rules, regulations, policies and procedures.
- All students and faculty must complete the attached VHS Clinical Experience Questionnaire and Acknowledgment Form (**Exhibit A**) prior to commencement of Clinical Activities until further notice.
- All students and faculty from affiliations must wear surgical masks while on-site and wash their hands frequently.
- All students and faculty must comply with social distancing rules of 6 feet.
- All students and faculty must be quarantined for 14 days if they have traveled to any currently restricted areas within United States or internationally and they must refrain from coming on-site for any Clinical Experiences for that duration; the list of restricted states may change frequently and on short notice.
- Students and faculty shall self-monitor for fever and symptoms of COVID-19 before entering the facility. All students and faculty must be fever free (temperature of less than 100.0°F) and symptom free prior to each clinical day on-site.
- Where applicable, faculty will be responsible for screening and completing the Temperature and Symptom Log for each student and faculty member present on-site each day (before entry to the facility) and sending it to the appropriate VHS liaison on a daily basis.
- School will make every effort to provide shuttle transportation to students given limited on-site parking.
- Post conference group meetings are not permitted on-site due to social distancing rules.
- All breaks and meals must be taken in the staff lounges or cafeteria, maintaining 6 feet social distance.

RESPONSIBILITY: Senior Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer



Audrey Meyers
President and Chief Executive Officer

EFFECTIVE: 7/13/20

Attachment: Exhibit A – VHS Clinical Experience Questionnaire and Acknowledgment Form