

## Guidelines for Re-establishment of Student Rotations

Updated June 4

As an academic medical center, UPMC is committed to the education of future health care professionals in partnership with educational institutions. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we must balance this objective with our primary mission of providing clinical care to the patients we serve.

These guidelines are not a mandate for educational institutions to return to class or clinical rotations, and each should operate in the best manner to protect students and faculty and to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Programs are expected to employ remote or virtual methods of training and instruction whenever possible.

UPMC is committed to the safety of our patients, physicians, and staff, and all other individuals in the clinical environment at all times. An oversight committee representing service line leaders for each student discipline is shaping the decisions for bringing students back into the clinical environment.

**In addition to the general guidelines, refer to these guidelines for specific student disciplines:**

- [Anesthesiology and SRNA](#)
- [Nursing, Care Management, and Respiratory](#)
- [Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy Rehab Settings](#)

**General guidelines include:**

- UPMC policies and procedures will be aligned with [Governor Wolf's Guidance, Phased-in Implementation, designation of essential workers, and reopening of college and universities](#), including guidance for medical, nursing, and health care practitioners (licensed), and allied health professionals (non-licensed).
- Each individual UPMC discipline leader will communicate start dates and additional requirements for their areas.
  - **As of June 8**, students will be permitted to start clinical rotations in UPMC's Pennsylvania-based facilities, on a facility-by-facility basis. We anticipate future guidelines from New York state and Maryland.
  - Non-credit bearing experiences, such as observerships and shadowing, are not permitted.
- Each UPMC facility and geographic region will determine how many and what types of students will be permitted in their environment based on disease incidence in the region, clinical volumes, availability of PPE, staff availability, and other relevant considerations. These guidelines could change based on state and county reopening status.
  - Geographic regions will prioritize and define UPMC parameters related to professional disciplines, schools, and clinical locations. Within an institution, vulnerable areas such as critical care units, pediatrics and OB units, transplant units, and surgical/procedural areas may be precluded as teaching sites.

# Student Oversight: General Guidelines

- When possible, students will be placed in outpatient rather than inpatient areas and will have the opportunity to participate in tele-visits.
- The number of students in any clinical setting/patient or treatment area/room should be **limited to only 1 student from any discipline**. Clinical areas will collaborate to ensure limits are enforced.
- Students in clinical rotations that require participation in aerosol-generating and surgical procedures will have clinical experiences that enable them to participate. The amount of days they will be in this clinical rotation will be determined by the business unit dependent on available PPE.
  - For example, if students usually have clinical rotations 4 days a week, they may be limited to 2 days per week.
  - Schools are expected to supply additional days of supplemental education, such as simulations or classroom experiences.
- All students who have not been previously fit tested or who have had a change in facial habitus will undergo just-in-time fit testing. To be fit tested, students must be clean-shaven with no beards or facial hair that would interfere with face to face-piece seal. If a student fails fit testing, they will notify their clinical coordinator who will reach out to the Program Director and be removed from clinical arena until quantitative testing can be arranged. No PAPRs will be made available to SRNAs secondary to limited supplies.
- No groups of rounders will be permitted in patient rooms. Incorporate virtual rounding when possible using Teams and other approved UPMC telemedicine platforms.
- Classroom or conference rooms are limited and being used for alternative functions, and social distancing will be enforced. At this time students and faculty are asked to gather virtually or off-site for conferencing or classroom activities.
- Students will not be permitted to be directly involved in the care of COVID-19 patients or those under investigation unless approved by senior institutional leaders on a case-by-case basis.
- UPMC educators and clinical leadership will determine which educational institutions and categories of students will receive prioritization for clinical rotations.
  - Prioritization will begin with those closest to graduation, then those who have accepted positions with UPMC, and current UPMC employees with immediate needs.
- Based on clinical volume the clinical sites may not be sufficient to support quality educational experiences and need to partner with individual business units to determine appropriate placement.
- There must be sufficient PPE to protect students and staff. All PPE must be provided by UPMC for those students in patient care areas.

# Student Oversight: General Guidelines

- All students must complete an online educational module — [COVID-19 Introduction Education for Students Within UPMC Course](#) — before returning to a UPMC clinical setting.
  - Students can also visit <https://www.wolfflearningacademy.com/> and click COVID-19 Introductory Education for Students.
  - Any participant will be directed to create an account and login before registration can begin.
    - Students should provide their certificate of completion to their academic institution.
- Students must follow UPMC’s safety guidelines within our facilities for the protection of our patients and staff.
  - Wear UPMC-provided masks or other required PPE.
  - Practice hand hygiene.
  - Follow social distancing protocols.
- A screening process must be in place to identify students who might be at risk for exposing our patients and staff to COVID-19.
  - All students should adhere to [UPMC guidelines for business and personal travel](#).
    - If you live in a location with a stay-at-home order, travel is strongly discouraged.
    - If you are experiencing potential COVID-19 symptoms following travel, stay home or seek treatment, and follow up with your student health services.
    - Before traveling, monitor travel advisories on the [CDC website](#).
  - Building entrances will be limited and screening will occur upon entrance to a UPMC hospital facility. Students entering an outpatient facility must complete electronic screening via a provided QR code. If the student fails the screening they will not be able to enter the organization.
  - Students who have a potential exposure must follow both UPMC and their school’s exposure guidelines and be cleared by UPMC prior to returning to a UPMC facility.

**This will be a phased approach as we continue to monitor the threat of COVID-19 in our regions and update our educational partners via these guidelines.**

## UPMC Department of Anesthesiology SRNA Clinical Experience Reintegration

- The PA Dept of Education (PDE) posted guidance for all medical and nursing education programs, including APP Programs, that addresses the continuance of the didactic and clinical components of instruction by the Governor’s Emergency Declaration.
- **Timeline**
  - **Monday, June 8**, integration of 108 Student Nurse Anesthetists with phasing of senior and junior level SRNAs at facilities where appropriate.
- **SRNA Clinical Affiliations**
  - **York College of Nursing**
    - **(Total of 4 SRNAs)**
    - UPMC Pinnacle Harrisburg Shore
    - UPMC Pinnacle West Shore
    - UPMC Memorial
  - **UPMC Hamot School of Anesthesia/Gannon University**
    - **(Total of 38 SRNAs) 5d/wk.**
    - UPMC Hamot / UPMC Women’s Hospital (for Epidurals & C-Sections)-
    - UPMC Hamot Same Day Surgery
    - UPMC Northwest
    - Warren General Hospital -1 SRNA 5 d/wk.
    - Punxsutawney Area Hospital – 2 SRNAS 5 d/wk.
    - Brooks Memorial Hospital – 3 SRNAs 5 d/wk.
  - **University of Pitt School of Nursing Nurse Anesthesia**
    - **(Total of 66 SRNAs) 3-4 d/wk.**
    - UPMC Presbyterian
    - UPMC Shadyside
    - UPMC Passavant
    - UPMC Mercy
    - UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh
    - UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital
    - UPMC St. Margaret
    - UPMC East
    - UPMC McKeesport
    - Butler Memorial Hospital
    - Veteran Affairs Medical Center
    - University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine
    - Washington Hospital

# Student Oversight: General Guidelines

- SRNAs will follow UPMC COVID-19 [Personal Protective Equipment Plan](#) when caring for patients, including Appendix B: PPE Model Including Donning and Doffing for Anesthesia Services.

COVID-19 Is Not Suspected or Diagnosed <sup>a</sup>	
General care	No COVID-19 related precautions required other than shift mask. <i>Use other transmission-based precautions if other pathogens are present.</i>
Aerosol-generating procedure (see <a href="#">Appendix C</a> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Airborne precautions (N95 or PAPR)</li> <li>✓ Eye protection (PAPR, face shield, or goggles)</li> <li>✓ Gown</li> <li>✓ Gloves</li> </ul>
Specified surgical procedures (see <a href="#">Appendix D</a> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Airborne precautions (N95 or PAPR)</li> <li>✓ Eye protection (PAPR, face shield, or goggles)</li> <li>✓ Gown</li> <li>✓ Gloves</li> </ul>
General inpatient care before/after an aerosol-generating procedure or surgery ( <a href="#">Appendix C &amp; D</a> )	No COVID-19 related precautions required outside of the peri-operative/procedural setting other than shift mask. <i>Use other transmission-based precautions if other pathogens are present.</i>

- In the event PPE is in short supply, affiliating Program Directors will be notified for alternative learning plan outside of surgical arena for those SRNAs who do not have immediate graduate requirement needs.
- PPE distribution for SRNAs will occur at the local facility through the business unit process. Cloth face coverings are **not** acceptable in place of surgical mask.
- SRNAs will participate in N95 conservative measures. N95 Masks can be worn up to 12 hours and then reprocessed for disinfection (if available at the facility) or discarded.
- SRNAs will be permitted to participate in aerosol-generating surgical and interventional procedures for those patients who are **NOT** under investigation or known positive for SARS-Cov-2 utilizing the appropriate PPE (see [COVID-19 PPE Plan](#)).
- SRNA gatherings are asked to be virtual or off-site for conferences or classroom activities. Social distancing, masking and hand hygiene will be enforced.
- Student assignments will be based upon level of year in program with preference to those SRNA requirements necessary to complete graduation in 2020.
- No 24 hour in-house call for SRNAs in UPMC Pennsylvania facilities during governor-dictated yellow phase. Call will be reinstated with movement to green phase. Students may participate in off shift and weekend assignments to facilitate learning needs and separate student clusters.
- Program requirements will continue as before.
- Student parking guidelines will remain in effect as before.



# Student Oversight: General Guidelines

## Nursing, Care Management, and Respiratory

- Clinical time needs to be no less than 8 consecutive hours and no more than 12 consecutive hours based on unit availability.
- Number of students permitted in a rotation/day will be limited to half of the routine numbers such as if 8 students were previously permitted in the rotation then 4 would be permitted.
  - Consider alternative schedules that will allow your seniors to obtain their hours. For example, group A of 4 students would be in clinical while group B of 4 students is in a simulated or didactic class, then week 2 group A and B switch.
- Consecutive days is preferred if unit is able to accommodate.
- If students are returning and mask is unsoiled, they should keep their clean mask for future rotation.
- Clinical conferences (Post/Pre) need to be off-site/virtual locations.
- Make plans for social distancing for breaks and lunches.
- **Transitions:** Senior transitions students can begin based on preceptor/unit availability, governor approval, and site approval following guidelines above after June 1.
- **LPNs** are included in above guidelines.
- **Graduate** (non-advanced practice nurses): once schools are approved to open by governor: Graduate non-clinical programs can be started in non-clinical areas based on availability of preceptors and following above guidelines. (Advanced practice provider students should follow APP requirements.)
- All previously approved clinical rotations, transitions, and preceptorships will need to be submitted to UPMC's local student placement site coordinator.
- **Vulnerable populations/units may not be available for clinical rotations during the summer such as OB and Transplant. Updates will be communicated in the future.**



## Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy Rehab Settings

- The Rehab Division is prepared to initiate student clinical rotations in UPMC's Pennsylvania-based facilities beginning, June 8, 2020 with a phased in approach through mid-August 2020.
- The following operational guidelines are developed to continue to balance our mission to educate the next generation of rehab professionals with providing appropriate and safe clinical care to the patients we serve.
- The number of students in any specific patient hospital room or private outpatient treatment room will be limited to ONE with their clinical instructor providing the 1:1 direct, onsite supervision in accordance with our already standing clinical education policy. In larger gym settings, social distancing will be applied.
- Students will NOT be afforded the opportunity to observe surgery, as this is a high-risk procedure.
- *These guidelines will be reviewed and modified, as necessary, prior to fall 2020 assignments.*