

GUIDELINES FOR HANDS-ON TRAINING IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND OTHER PROGRAMS AY 2021-2022

The early clinical skills training of health professions students requires students to practice on patients, their peers, standardized patients (actors) and in the simulation environment, all with close faculty supervision. This cannot be done while social distancing and requires some adaptation of existing guidelines to ensure that all health professions students receive adequate training to enter hospital-based and other clinical training experiences and the clinical workforce.

The following guidelines are for campus-based clinical skills training experiences where social distancing is not possible.

COVID-19 Vaccination

It is expected that all health professions students receive the COVID vaccination. Not receiving the vaccination may impact a student's ability to participate in some on-campus and clinical site educational activities.

On-Campus Clinical Skills Training

- All clinical skills training interactions must be restricted to non-acute individuals. Activities should be organized following the Maine CDC recommendations for group sizes.
- Recognizing that the use of PPE must be judicious, in **non-aerosol producing** clinical skills training where all participants are working with "healthy," non-acute individuals, the extended use or re-use of PPE will be acceptable. (Please see table on page 6)
- For **non-aerosol producing** clinical skills training (taking blood pressure, listening to heart/lungs, general physical examination, etc.) all participants (student examiners, student examinees, and faculty) must double mask with surgical masks. In the Oral Health Center, N95-type mask may be required. (Please see table on page 6)
- For **non-mechanically generated aerosol** producing clinical activities (oral exams, examination of face, nose, or mouth) double masking and eye protection, or a single surgical mask and a face shield must be worn. In the Oral Health Center, N95-type mask may be required.
- For **mechanically generated aerosol** producing clinical skills training, particularly dental medicine and dental hygiene, student examiners and faculty must wear N95 type masks and face shields, disposable gowns or overlay apparel, and gloves. Masks, gowns and gloves must be discarded after each aerosol-generating procedure. Face shields can be cleaned and reused. (Please see table on page 6)

- It is understood that some students and faculty may fall into at-risk populations, and additional precautions will be needed. In these cases, the individual at-risk should contact their program director or HR.
- Employees who have been instructed to return to work on-campus and have concerns about doing so due to a medical condition that places them in a higher risk group, those who are pregnant, or those who wish to seek ADA Reasonable Accommodations related to returning to the workplace should contact Human Resources at hr@une.edu or Cat Martins, Benefit and Disability Specialist, cmartins@une.edu

On-Campus Student Training Clinics

- Students and preceptors/clinical supervisors will adopt the guidelines of their analogous state professional associations as long as similar standards for PPE, etc., can be met at the on-campus UNE training site. Student training clinics must also follow their analogous professional organizations' recommendations for patient intake and discharge.

Donor Lab and other Science Lab Activities

- When physical distancing is not always possible, students must double mask (with surgical masks) and wear eye protection or use single surgical mask and face shield.
- For activities involving active anatomical dissection: 2-3 students per table are allowed. For activities involving observation of dissections: 4-6 students are allowed. When not actively participating and whenever possible all persons should maintain physical distancing per CDC guidelines.
- For bench laboratory activities (chemistry lab, etc.) students and faculty must double mask using a medical face mask and cloth mask and wear eye protection, or wear a single medical face mask and face shield.
- Students working in UNE research spaces (labs, vessels, field research) must follow additional project specific guidelines for their research team.

Mitigation Strategies for Non-clinical Training Interactions

- Faculty, professional staff, and students must be at least single masked and maintain physical distancing per CDC recommendations at all times for all non-clinical training and social interactions while on campus. Practice frequent hand washing and avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Face masks must be worn by all faculty, professional staff, and students on campus in all public settings (e.g., parking lots, walkways, common work spaces, hallways, meeting rooms, labs, classrooms, etc.). Faculty or professional staff may remove their mask while alone in the privacy of their office. Faculty, professional staff, and students will be asked to provide their own mask for use outside of academic activities where PPE, as described above, is recommended.
- Committee, faculty, professional staff and student meetings may be held in person if physical distancing protocols can be met, group size is complied with, and masks are worn; otherwise, they must be held remotely, even if attendees are on campus.

- UNE has developed attendance and excuse policies that acknowledge and support faculty, professional staff, and students who become ill or need to quarantine, without creating barriers and without requiring unnecessary visits to health facilities for documentation of illness.
- Students are permitted on campus as long as they are masked and observe physical distancing. Programs will coordinate on-campus activities to control and track the total number of people in buildings.
- Sanitizing stations and PPE will be placed at the entrances of training areas. Students and employees will follow check in procedures upon their arrival to campus each day, which will include personal health screening and the sanitizing of hands.
- UNE will provide sanitizing supplies in common areas for use to sanitize work spaces after use.
- Guests will be allowed on campus by appointment and approval of the dean's office.

Common Areas (Hallways, Break Rooms, Copy Areas)

- Students, faculty, and professional staff must maintain physical distancing and wear a face covering while in common areas, including hallways, restrooms, break rooms, and copy rooms. Faculty and professional staff using break rooms must maintain CDC physical distancing recommendations and wear a face mask. Similarly, while someone is using a copier, physical distancing must be maintained. Each person must wipe down any equipment or surfaces they use. The small copier rooms will be limited to one occupant.
- Where appropriate, signage will be placed reminding building occupants of current processes, guidelines, and best practices.

Office Space

- Offices with double occupancy will be temporarily reduced to shared single occupancy with personnel alternating occupancy. If individuals need to be in the office simultaneously, masking and physical distancing must be maintained. Swing office space will be available for use of those individuals who have an operational or instructional need to be on campus. Individuals must wipe down surfaces after use. Wherever possible, alternating schedules will be applied to occupants of shared spaces. Arrangements need to be coordinated and reserved in advance through respective deans' offices.
- Faculty and professional staff who do not have an operational or instructional obligation will work remotely whenever possible. A schedule will be maintained to coordinate and minimize the number of people on-campus at any given time. If there is a reason for a faculty or professional staff member to come to campus and they do not have a private office space, they may request a temporary accommodation from their dean's office.
- Faculty and professional staff will be expected to perform their normal workload regardless of whether they are working on campus or remotely. Given the need for UNE to put in place social distancing measures for on-campus activities, there may be temporary disruptions to normal working schedules. Supervisors will work with employees to come up with a plan to address these potential situations.

Illness

- Faculty, professional staff, and students who are ill must remain home and follow work place absence notification procedures. For employees on campus when illness develops, should notify their supervisor and depart campus until symptom free. Students will follow published absence notification procedure found in programs' Student Handbook or course syllabi. Individuals who have been diagnosed or suspect an illness is COVID-19, should remain off campus until 72 hours symptom free.
- Learn what to do if you are sick: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>
- Learn what to do if you are caring for someone sick at home: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/care-for-someone.html>

Response to Known COVID-19 Exposure

Colleges and programs will coordinate a response with the University and take steps to sanitize the known areas.

Communication

The University and/or colleges will provide regular communications from the Office of the Dean to announce any news, changes to policy or procedures, or other pertinent information. A link to a site containing all current procedures or restrictions will be included with each email.

Reducing Risk of COVID-19 Transmission

- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care. Employees should email HR-COVID19Questions@une.edu
- Inform your supervisor if you have a sick family member at home with COVID-19. Employees should email HR-COVID19Questions@une.edu
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in the trash and immediately wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol. Learn more about coughing and sneezing etiquette on the CDC website.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as workstations, keyboards, telephones, handrails, and doorknobs. Dirty surfaces can be cleaned with soap and water prior to disinfection. To disinfect, use products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2^{external} icon, the cause of COVID-19, and are appropriate for the surface.

- Avoid using other employees' or students' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment, when possible. If necessary, clean and disinfect them before and after use.
- Practice social distancing by avoiding large gatherings and maintaining distance from others when possible.
- For more information, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>

CAMPUS-BASED CLINICAL SKILLS TRAINING PPE RECOMMENDATIONS

Health profession (HP) education (medicine, dental, nursing, physician assistant, physical and occupational therapy, nurse anesthesia, etc.) requires students to practice on one another, standardized patients, mannequins, and actual patients under the close guidance and supervision of faculty. Clinical skills training cannot be accomplished with social distancing principles and requires adaptation of existing guidelines to ensure that HP students receive adequate opportunity to practice and learn. This skills training prepares HP students to safely deliver care to patients in hospital and clinic settings while learning how to appropriately protect themselves and others.

The following recommendations are for campus-based clinical skills training experiences where social distancing is not possible. **Individual programs may adjust these as appropriate.** Faculty and students are to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or apply hand sanitizer containing at least 80% ethanol or 75% isopropyl alcohol before and after any skills procedure, and wipe down all surfaces after use.

TYPE OF SKILL/PROCEDURE AND POPULATIONS	PRECAUTION NEEDED	PPE NEEDED	PPE NEEDED	PPE NEEDED
Routine campus contact Social Distancing possible. Population presumed to be healthy.	Cloth Mask when interacting in public areas on campus			
Non-aerosol producing clinical skills (e.g. Taking BP, High fidelity simulation, transfers/positioning, dental simulation). Population presumed to be healthy.	Cloth Mask	Supplemented with Surgical Mask	Oral Health Center Simulation Clinic: eye protection (dental loupes, goggles, safety glasses or prescription glasses with side shields)	Oral Health Center Simulation Clinic: barrier gown and gloves
Non-mechanically generated aerosol producing clinical skill (e.g. head & neck exam, oral exam, respiratory exam, manual DH procedures, exertion exercise lab). Population presumed to be healthy.	Cloth Mask	Supplemented with Surgical Mask	Face Shield (as needed)	
Mechanically generated aerosol producing clinical skills training & pt. care (dental procedures, select dental hygiene procedures, Mature Care). Population with unknown health status.		Isolation Gown Overlay, Gloves Hair Bonnet Shoe Coverings	Face Shield	Appropriately fitted N-95 Respirator