

Re-introduction of Doctor of Medicine Program Health Learners

COVID-19 FAQs (Duke Health)

Duke Health is working on a **slow and measured re-introduction of learners** to the clinical environment. As we adjust to our “new normal” with the COVID-19 pandemic, we know there are many questions. The list below provides the responses to common questions. If you have additional questions, email clinicaleducation@duke.edu.

When can I expect learners to return to my clinical area?

MS2 (second year students) will return to clinicals on Monday, June 15, 2020. Subinternships, including those involving the ORs, started on May 11.

What does a “slow and measured” re-introduction mean?

With safety being the priority for our patients, staff and learners, along with our desire to continue to educate others, we are gradually bringing learners back to the clinical settings. Having smaller groups of learners will allow us to learn and adjust to the new norm. Learners are being re-introduced to the clinical areas based on area’s capacity to have learner’s onsite in phases.

- Phase 1: Subinternships started on May 11, 2020, including work in the ORs.
- Phase 2: Begins June 15, 2020 with students whose clinical education was interrupted by COVID-19.

Our new academic year will begin in August, with new learners using a combination of small in-person groups and larger groups using virtual learning.

A new class of students completing clerkships will begin August 21, 2020.

What restrictions will learners have while in the clinical setting?

Learners are restricted from caring for COVID-19 positive patients and persons under investigation (PUI) for COVID-19.

Students **may** care for patients in contact isolation; adequate PPE has been ensured by Duke Health.

Students **may** care for patients designated as “a person with exposure to a person known to have COVID-19.” They must be observed properly donning and doffing PPE by a resident, fellow or supervising provider.

Will learners and/or faculty go through Duke Health's screening?

Yes, all learners and faculty will be screened as employees prior to entry to a clinical building and will receive one facemask for the shift along with the specific daily colored dot. Learners, as well as staff, are encouraged to stay at home if they are sick even with mild symptoms.

Will learners be provided PPE?

Yes, learners and faculty will receive one facemask per day.

What if I have concerns with the unit or clinical setting being able to accommodate a clinical rotation group?

There may be certain units or clinical settings that are unable to accommodate learners at this time. In such cases, we will attempt to reassign the clinical group to similar areas.

What are the recommendations for social distancing in the clinical environment?

All learners and faculty will be expected to minimize the spread of infection by following the Duke Health guidelines for common areas such as shared spaces, eating in break rooms and similar situations.

- *Wear your mask at all times when not actively eating or drinking.*
- *Maintain a physical distance of at least six feet from others when possible.*
- *Clean your hands with soap and water before and after eating.*
- *Follow safe food handling practices.*
- *Limit the number of people at a table to maintain 6 feet of physical distance.*
- *Leave the break room or common area when you have finished eating.*
- *Clean shared surfaces and equipment frequently throughout the day.*
- *Limit the time spent unmasked while eating or drinking to 10 minutes.*

What are the strategies to promote social distancing on the unit?

Encourage strategies to promote social distancing of 6 feet apart, when possible, in the clinical area. If possible, have learners use computers in hallways or patient rooms to avoid crowding nursing stations.

We have received approval for up to 50 students on clinical rotations (including subinternships, electives and clerkships) to use the 6th floor of TSCHE on weekdays from 8am-5pm to help with any potential crowding of workrooms or other work spaces. Students will not be allowed to eat in this space.

What are other responsibilities for the clinical areas during this re-introduction?

Each site has been asked to

- *Identify where students should arrive for symptom screening and receipt of face mask*
- *Identify a location for the student to work*
- *Identify a location for students to eat (we are prioritizing outdoor locations, weather permitting)*
- *Include students in patient care experiences as a valued member of the team*

Who should learners contact if there is a suspected exposure?

Accidental exposures should be reported through the Employee Health Blood and Body Fluid Hotline at 919-684-8115.

How many students does Duke traditionally have on the various campuses during a semester?

Traditionally we have around 1,000 learners per semester from all health professions, with the majority being nursing graduate and pre-licensure learners, on the various campuses.

Where can I find other Duke COVID-19 resources?

Refer to the at [Duke Health COVID-19 site](#).

For any other questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Alison Clay, Assistant Dean of Clinical Education (Alison.clay@duke.edu), or Dr. Nancy Knudsen (Nancy.knudsen@duke.edu), Assistant Dean of Learning Environment, or Dr. Aditee Narayan (aditee.narayan@duke.edu), interim Associate Dean of Curriculum.