

Updated: 1/8/21

Frostburg State University

COVID-19

Clinical, Field Placement, and Internship Guidelines for Students

To continue to mitigate the impacts COVID-19 on the Frostburg State University community, we have updated the following guidelines that have been adapted from the University of Maryland Baltimore.

The following public health guidance was used to develop these guidelines:

- International, national, state, and local health care entities are the authorities for COVID-19.
 - [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)
 - [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
 - [Maryland Department of Health \(MDH\)](#)
 - [Allegany County Health Department](#)

Information is constantly changing and evolving. We anticipate changes and suggest that you check with these authorities frequently for updated recommendations.

- Public health guidance is often focused on fully licensed health care providers and the general public, so the guidance may differ for students who are undergoing training.

Clinicals, Field Placements, and Internships

The following guidelines apply to FSU students in their clinicals, field placements, student teaching, and internships:

- Students should not:
 - Attend clinicals, field placements, or internships if they have been asked to self-quarantine by public health authorities or FSU
 - Participate in internship placements if the internship site or the student teaching school is closed
- Student clinical, field placements, and internships will be canceled:
 - At any site that is treating a patient with COVID-19 where appropriate environmental controls cannot be implemented per CDC guidelines
 - When sites are unable to provide students with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Student clinical, field placements, and internships could be canceled at any site when crisis standards of care are used to care for COVID-19 patients (example: organizational changes to adapt to acute crisis).
- Students will communicate with their clinical, field placement, or internship instructor before attending any scheduled experiences to check if cancellation is warranted.
- Students will immediately communicate to their clinical, field placement, or internship instructor (or, if student teaching, please contact the Office of Clinical Field Experience [tceirich@frostburg.edu] and their school's clinical, field placement, or internship coordinator any safety concerns and stop participating in the experience until the issue is resolved.
- Clinical, field placement, and internship sites and/or FSU retain the right to cancel student participation at any time to protect the safety of students and staff.
- Students who are at a higher risk due to a preexisting health condition or compromised immune system may seek option to opt out of a Clinical, Field Placement, and Internship in consultation with their academic advisor, department chair, and/or Disability Support Services (DSS).
- Frostburg State University will follow guidance for students in clinical placements who test positive for COVID-19 issued by the CDC for return to work for healthcare personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection. Frostburg State University reserves the right to adapt the CDC guidance for SARS-CoV-2 infection to respond to rapidly changing local circumstances.

Academic Impacts

It is unclear how many students may be removed from their clinical, field placement, and internship sites, for how long, and how broad the impacts may be. As much as possible, students will be accommodated with alternate clinicals, field placements, student teaching mentoring, and internships so they can continue to meet requirements toward graduation and licensure. FSU officials will work to communicate updates to students expeditiously. Students also should contact their school's clinical, field placement, or internship coordinator or course instructor for more information.

The impact of COVID-19 can cause us to feel frustrated, disconcerted, and overwhelmed. As we collectively tackle the challenges that this disease presents, we want to emphasize resources available to our campus community:

- [FSU Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Resources](#)
- [Counseling & Psychological Services](#)
- [FSU Student Affairs](#)

CDC Criteria for Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection

Return to work criteria for healthcare personnel (HCP) with SARS-CoV-2 Infections

Symptom- based strategies for determining when HCP (herein known as student) can return to work.

Students with mild to moderate illness (Mild illness are individuals who have any of the various signs and symptoms of COVID 19 for example fever, cough, sore throat, malaise, headache, muscle pain without shortness of breath, dyspnea, or abdominal chest imaging. Moderate illness is individuals who have evidence of lower respiratory disease by clinical assessment or imaging and a saturation of oxygen (SPO₂) of >94% on room air at sea level).

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared **and**
- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improve

Students with severe to critical illness (severe critical illness being defined at individuals who have respiratory frequency >30 breaths per minute, SpO₂<94% on room air at sea level, ratio of arterial partial pressure oxygen to fraction of inspired oxygen (PaO₂/FiO₂) <300 mmHg, or lung infiltrates >50%). Critical illness are individuals who have respiratory failure, septic shock, and or multiple organ dysfunction.

- At least 10 days and up to 20 days have passed since symptoms first appeared **and**
- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) have improved
- Consider consultation with infection control experts

Source: CDC - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>

Return to Campus, Clinical, Field Placement, and Internship Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies for Students

- **Self-monitoring**
 - Self-check-in is required daily when students are going to be on campus, clinical, field placement, or internships on the FSU website. Students may print the self-check-in badge as required by the clinical site.
- **Training**
 - All faculty, staff, and students are required to view and acknowledge the COVID-19 Training video regarding how you can protect yourself and others.
- **Public Health Protective Factors**
 - All members of the University community will commit to staying home if sick or have any viral symptoms.
 - Frequent hand washing and/or sanitizing for 20 seconds (avoid touching your face with your hands).
 - Physical or social distancing from others of six feet.

- Practicing good respiratory etiquette by fully covering coughs and sneezes in your shoulder/bicep area.
- Wearing cloth or medical face masks when indoors in the presence of others or during outdoor activities where physical or social distancing is not possible.
- Follow established guidelines for event capacity and social gatherings on and off campus.
- Follow facility engineering controls regarding entering and exiting buildings, as well as seating distances and directional flow in spaces.
- Limit travel exposure to essential trips as much as possible.

FSU Social Compact: FSU students, faculty, and staff are required to acknowledge the following social compact effective for the spring 2021 term.

Understanding that during a viral pandemic there are inherent risks associated with returning to activities of daily living, we are asking you to acknowledge and accept responsibility for:

- Complete daily **check in** when on campus.
- Staying home when sick or having any viral symptoms, having cared for someone who has COVID-19 within the past two weeks, or having a close-quarter exposure within six feet of someone for a sustained period of more than 15 minutes whom you have reason to believe has COVID-19.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds multiple times per day and/or using hand sanitizer when unable to wash your hands.
- Adhere to physical or social distancing recommendations for keeping six feet away from others.
- Practice appropriate respiratory etiquette by fully covering coughs or sneezes in your shoulder/bicep area or with a clean tissue.
- Wear a cloth or medical face mask when indoors in the presence of others or during outdoor activities where physical or social distancing is not possible.
- Adhere to social distancing capacity guidelines for facilities, events, and gatherings.
- Limit travel for essential purposes and avoid crowded transmission hotspots or super-spreader events.
- Follow guidelines established by Frostburg State University, the University System of Maryland, the State of Maryland, and federal recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Participate in the university's COVID-19 testing strategy and, upon return to campus, test for COVID-19 or follow protocol from healthcare provider or health department if previously tested positive.
- If you have been asked to isolate or quarantine by a healthcare provider, please adhere to the guidelines and protocols indicated. For the health and safety of self and others, it is also important that you not visit friends or colleagues that are isolated or quarantined.
- Convey to the University through the check in portal previous COVID-19 infection history and vaccination record.

Source: <https://www.frostburg.edu/spring2021/>

We are committed to supporting our students, faculty, staff, and community members as we prepare for and respond to this constantly evolving situation.