

STANDING PROCEDURES & POLICIES FOR College of Allied Health Sciences Students Safety & Health in the Clinical Learning Environment Due to COVID-19

Augusta University College of Allied Health Sciences (CAHS) guidelines regarding return to clinical and other patient care activities.

Individual programs have policies and procedures in place to maintain student safety and health in both educational and practice settings.

Clinical programs within the CAHS require education and training for all students in appropriate methods to prevent the transmission of communicable diseases, including blood-borne pathogens. The educational program includes content defined by CDC developed guidelines for such training. The training is appropriate for the type of clinical experience relevant to each program and is presented during the students on an annual basis once students begin these clinical experiences. In addition, students are required to meet the specific training requirements of each clinical site they are assigned to.

Students are also given **explicit instructions** on what procedures to follow, and where to go for initial health evaluation and follow-up care should they be exposed to a communicable disease (including COVID-19).

Added precautions to prevent exposure to COVID-19 will be taken to maintain their safety & health on a continuous basis upon return to the clinical setting:

1. Students **MUST** wear a mask all times while indoors at a clinical facility.
2. Students who suspect that a patient may be displaying symptoms of COVID-19 should alert their clinical preceptor immediately.
3. Attestations will be signed by all students (see attached).
4. CAHS will work with students to locate PPE if not provided by a particular clinical site.
5. CAHS are students expected to review training modules from the CDC on donning/doffing PPE (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=of73FN086E8> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQxOc13DxvQ>) as well as on hand hygiene (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/hand-hygiene.html>). This is in addition to any specific requirements that may be in place for their specific clinical setting.

Students should reach out to their program's clinical coordinator or director regarding any questions or concerns as they re-enter the clinical environment.