

Augusta University Interdisciplinary Simulation Center

Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Infection Control Policy (Revision May 15, 2020):

1. Restrict access to the facility to learners and facilitators with scheduled events only. No tours shall be permitted until further notice. Personnel facilitating deliveries will be directed to the appropriate drop-off location by ISC staff.
 - a. Learners are to arrive not more than 5 minutes prior to their scheduled simulation time and are not to congregate in groups outside of the ISC.
 - b. Facilitators are to arrive 30 minutes prior to scheduled simulation time and not permit learner access until 5 minutes prior to scheduled time.
 - c. Facilitators and learners may use only the areas of the facility in which they are scheduled, and must leave promptly after their activities.
 - d. Unless spaces are being actively utilized for a simulation activity they shall remain locked at all times.
2. Social Distancing
 - a. All learners and facilitators must wear facemasks or cloth face coverings at all times while within the ISC. Individuals must bring their own masks or face coverings if possible as supply shortages exist.
 - b. Learners and facilitators should remain at a minimum distance of 6 feet whenever possible. If necessary, group sizes should be reduced to facilitate social distancing.
 - c. Maximum safe capacities of the following spaces may not be exceeded without prior written permission from ISC. This is based on the size and purpose of each room. In order to remain within capacity limits instruction may need to be truncated, staggered, or adapted.
 - i. Maximum safe capacity per each room (combined learners and facilitators):
 1. Debriefing Rooms: 5
 2. Combined Double Debriefing Rooms: 12
 3. GB3002 Classroom: 40
 4. Simulation Rooms 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5: 6
 5. Simulation Rooms 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10: 4
 6. Learning Resource Centers 1 & 2: 20
 7. Exam Rooms: 3
 8. Control Rooms: 2
 9. Facilitator Monitoring Room: 6
 10. Home Health Suite: 4
 - d. No more than 200 learners and facilitators may occupy the ISC at any time, even when the maximum room capacities above have not been met. Facilitators shall make every effort to ensure that large groups of learners do not enter or exit simultaneously.
 - e. Maximum room capacities shall be posted prominently at the entrance to each room.
 - f. Learners and facilitators may not congregate in the ISC either during or outside of scheduled activities. Unscheduled participants will be asked to leave immediately.
 - g. Individual meetings in offices may occur, with limited number of individuals, ideally less than three. However, whenever possible, meetings should be conducted virtually.

3. Learner and Facilitator Screening

- a. The faculty or staff member coordinating each activity (lead faculty, course coordinator, etc.) shall be responsible for screening their facilitators and learners daily. The following screening questionnaire shall be conducted:
 - i. Have you had contact with anyone with confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days without appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)?
 - ii. Have you in the last 14 days, or are you currently experiencing any of these symptoms?
 1. Fever
 2. Chills
 3. Cough
 4. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 5. Severe fatigue
 6. Joint or bone pain
 7. Headache
 8. Sore throat
 9. Gastrointestinal symptoms
 10. Loss of taste or smell
- b. Any individual who is positive upon screening will be asked to call the AU Health COVID-19 Hotline at 706-721-1852 to arrange for testing and shall not be permitted to participate in simulation activities or enter the ISC. Individuals who are sick should not come to the ISC for any reason. The ISC can help arrange for learners to participate via WebEx or other distance modality if necessary and feasible for the activity.
- c. Course coordinators are responsible for maintaining a list of screening questionnaire responses for each participant, activity, and day using the attached form.

4. Learner and Facilitator Attendance Rosters

- a. Until further notice, all learners and facilitators must document all visits to the ISC and submit rosters to simulationcenter@augusta.edu prior to departure using the attached form. ISC staff are available to assist with roster submission as needed.
- b. All individuals who do not have offices residing in the center must sign in and out of the center. A sign-in sheet or kiosk shall be located at the main entrance to the simulation center. For those with offices in the center, their employee clock in or badge swipe at the back-office door constitutes signing in.

5. Aseptic Protocol

- a. Learners and facilitators must utilize hand sanitizer or wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, upon entering the center, before and after each simulation encounter or when switching between rooms. Alcohol based hand sanitizer will be available at the front entrance of the ISC.
- b. Learners and facilitators must wear gloves when handling equipment, training models, or simulators. Gloves are located in each room near the sinks. Gloves should be discarded when moving between simulators or rooms and a fresh pair donned.
- c. Learners and facilitators must wear a cloth face covering or facemask at all times while in the ISC. All learners and facilitators must provide their own masks for this purpose.

- d. Augusta University Environmental Services shall perform regular nightly cleaning and disinfection of high touch areas within the ISC.
 - e. ISC staff shall perform regular nightly disinfection of commonly touched surfaces (door handles, simulation mannequins, beds, task trainers, instruments, etc.) utilizing an EPA List N registered disinfectant. List N products include household bleach, isopropanol, and many hospital grade disinfectants. Reference the EPA website for EPA's List N entitled Products with Emerging Viral Pathogens and Human Coronavirus claims for use against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)¹.
 - f. Rooms not in use shall have curtains and doors closed. Rooms that are not assigned to an activity may not be entered for any reason.
 - g. Learners shall remove linens at the end of their simulation activity and place them in a hamper (located in each simulation space). In cases where participants or standardized patients utilize the bed themselves, linens shall be changed between uses. ISC staff shall replace linens after disinfecting surfaces and prior to the next activity.
 - h. Facilitators shall disinfect all surfaces and items touched after each encounter. At a minimum, facilitators are asked to wipe down door handles, phones, push to talk microphones and computers that have been used during the session. Learners shall not assist with this task to limit the number of individuals handling clean equipment. The ISC shall provide disinfectant products for this purpose.
 - i. If ISC staff must enter a space occupied by learners, they shall utilize the same infection control protocols using alcohol cleaners or handwashing, as well as protective equipment, including, including masks and gloves. Likewise, ISC staff must utilize protective equipment while performing infection control duties.
6. Notification
- a. Programs participating in simulation activities shall immediately inform the ISC if a learner, facilitator, or staff member, having participated in simulation within the preceding 14 days, tests positive for COVID-19. Notification shall be performed to the greatest extent consistent with Augusta University/USG policy, and HIPAA/FERPA privacy protections. Notification shall be via email to simulationcenter@augusta.edu.
7. Learner and facilitator communications
- a. This policy shall be communicated to learners and facilitators using the attached information sheet.
 - b. The faculty or staff member coordinating each activity shall be responsible for ensuring that this policy is communicated universally to all learners and facilitators within each activity.
 - c. Copies of the information sheet shall be posted prominently within the ISC.
8. Enforcement
- a. This policy shall be strictly enforced.
 - b. Individuals who do not adhere to this policy shall be notified promptly. Notification shall also be provided to the faculty or staff member coordinating the activity.
 - c. Subsequent infractions may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including loss of simulation privileges and program-specific disciplinary action.

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

9. Changes to this policy

- a. This policy shall be amended in response to changes in SARS-CoV-2 transmission and infection rates and with changes to policy at the national, state, local, or institutional level.
- b. Notice shall be provided to ISC stakeholders as soon as possible when this policy changes.

Augusta University Interdisciplinary Simulation Center

Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Infection Control Information Sheet:

The Augusta University Interdisciplinary Simulation Center (ISC) has implemented mandatory policies and procedures to maintain a safe learning environment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. **If you are sick, stay home.** Individuals who: (1) have had contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days without PPE, or (2) have experienced fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, severe fatigue, joint or bone pain, headache, sore throat, gastrointestinal symptoms, or loss of taste or smell within the past 14 days, are not permitted within the ISC. Follow program specific protocols for absence/illness reporting. ISC staff can help facilitate distance alternatives.
2. **Arrive on time, but not early.** Facilitators should arrive 30 minutes prior to their activity. Learners should only arrive 5 minutes prior to their activity.
3. **Wear a mask and practice social distancing.** Do not congregate in groups inside or outside of the center. Wear a cloth face covering or facemask at all times. Cough or sneeze into your elbow, away from others; use a clean tissue, then discard it. Maintain six feet distance when possible.
4. **Practice good hand hygiene. Clean in, clean out.** Upon entry to the simulation center, when entering or exiting any room or space, and after any contact with simulators or training models, wash your hands for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at the entrance and throughout the center).
5. **Sign-in, sign out, and be prepared for screening.** Sign in at the front desk prior to entering the center using the provided sign in sheet or an activity-specific roster. You will be asked to attest to not having been exposed to any individual with confirmed COVID-19 without PPE, testing positive for COVID-19, or having symptoms consistent with COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
6. **Stay in your assigned space.** You may not congregate in the common spaces of the simulation center or enter unassigned spaces in the center. Leave promptly when your session is complete.
7. **Use PPE.** Gloves and hand sanitizer are provided for your use within the simulation center. Bring your own mask. Wear gloves when handling equipment, models, or simulators and then discard those gloves when done. Don a clean pair of gloves between different activities and models.
8. **Keep our shared space clean and safe.** At the end of each day, learners should remove and place linens in a hamper. At minimum facilitators will wipe down door handles, phones, push to talk microphones and computers that have been used during the session. Disinfectant is provided for this purpose. Simulation and Environmental Services personnel disinfect the space daily and replace linens but count on everyone doing their part to maintain a safe environment.
9. **Let your program know if you get sick.** If you are exposed to, test positive for, or develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, follow your department or program-specific protocols to inform them. Departments and programs will only disclose to the ISC information consistent with applicable law and policy.
10. **Monitor the situation.** Regularly check email, D2L and other communication channels for updates and expect the unexpected. The simulation center follows the operating status of the university, but program and department specific cancellations are handled individually.
11. **Keep in touch.** The simulation center staff are here to help. Let us know if we can do anything to make this new procedure work better by emailing us at simulationcenter@augusta.edu. If you have an immediate need or question call 706-721-9945.

