

Exposed to COVID-19?

MCG Student Policy

March 9, 2020

We are writing to update you on MCG planning that affects your experience as learners. **Please read this message fully and carefully.**

The COVID-19 situation is being very closely monitored and local, national, and international public health measures are being taken to mitigate the spread of illness. At present, the following general policies have been set for MCG medical students:

- Students should continue practicing hand washing, respiratory etiquette, social distancing, cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces, and staying home when sick (except to get medical care).
- Students with symptoms should not attend class or participate in patient care and should call Augusta University Student Health Service at 706-721-3448.

Student Learning Environment-specific policies

- **Clinical settings:** Students in clinical settings are not to participate in clinical care of patients suspected or known to have COVID-19. Solo and small group practices as well as major hospitals and health systems may have additional guidelines for students to follow. MCG will work in concert with these policies and requires students in clinical settings to also adhere to the following:
 - **If a student is exposed to a confirmed or possible case of COVID-19**, the student is required to:
 1. Inform MCG immediately: curriculum@augusta.edu
 2. Inform your preceptor and site clerkship director that you will be leaving to be tested
 3. Get tested at a site recommended by your clinical site
 4. Inform MCG and site clerkship director of test results, as soon as these are available.
 5. **If test result is NEGATIVE**, the student may return to the clinical environment, as the site allows. Students will continue to monitor for symptoms for 14 days. If symptoms occur, retesting is required.
 6. **If test result is POSITIVE**, students will be excused home and need to be quarantined for 14 days (in non-AHEC and non-residence hall housing). At the conclusion of the 14 days, MCG will inform students as to whether they may return to the clinical setting or will be reassigned.

- **Classroom learning:** Students in the classroom (including the simulation center) will be governed by the Augusta University policy which can be found here: <https://jagwire.augusta.edu/covid-19-update-for-the-augusta-university-community/>. Faculty are preparing contingency plans should classroom-based teaching be restricted or suspended that will involve distance learning. Course directors will be in touch with specific plans if these plans are put into action.
- **Accommodations due to COVID-19 Related Exposure/Illness:** Academic accommodations will be made to testing, missed assignments, missed work and lost time due to quarantine and/or testing. Students with pre-existing health conditions should contact OSMA at kloomer@augusta.edu if additional accommodations are needed during this time.

Service Learning Students involved in patient-involved service activities (e.g. student-run clinics, other voluntary patient care) should curtail these services until further notice.

Student travel MCG is instituting the following travel restrictions that will be in effect as of Tuesday, March 10th and until further notice for **all MCG medical students**:

- Avoid travel to COVID-19 levels 2 & 3 areas for domestic and international travel, and utilize other means to participate by tele- or video- conference.
- Students are required to comply with the AU Study Abroad Office's guidance relating to reporting travel to countries with a high burden of COVID as determined by the Centers for Disease Control. <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/>

Large Group Gatherings

Please also do your best to avoid large gatherings of more than 25-50 people. We recognize this situation is fluid, and depending on future circumstances, we may need to amend these restrictions. If you have further questions on travel, please contact the curriculum office at curriculum@augusta.edu.

School-sponsored social events

- Non -essential gatherings will be evaluated on an individual basis for the next 30 days. Though disappointing, as many of these gatherings are celebratory and we value social connectedness, in our role as healthcare providers and providers-in-training we have a responsibility to do our part in promoting health and safety.
- During the current outbreak of COVID-19, it is important that we do everything to help our patients, including protecting the health and optimizing the availability of our students. We will continue to update you as the situation

evolves and encourage you to be in touch with us, with your class deans, and with Student Health Services with questions and concerns.