

Guidelines for Clinical Rotations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

This document was developed in accordance with [Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education \(ACGME\)](#) and [Augusta University Medical Center \(AUMC\)](#) recommendations. As these guidelines are periodically updated, Program Directors and House Officers should occasionally check this document for modifications. Such modifications will be **highlighted** in the document until the next update is made.

- 1.** COVID-19 vaccination is currently available and is **strongly encouraged** for all clinical staff at Augusta University Medical Center. House Staff should thoroughly review the [Clinical Considerations for COVID-19 Vaccination](#) prior to receiving the vaccine.
- 2.** Program Directors should ensure that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is readily available for use by House Officers at all participating sites, and that residents are properly trained in PPE use.
- 3.** House Officers should periodically review the [AUMC COVID-19 Resource website](#). Special attention should be paid to the following:
 - [PPE Guidance](#)
 - [Mask Guidance](#)
 - [Procedures for Donning/Doffing PPE](#)
 - [COVID-19 Quarantine, Isolation and Testing Guidelines \(Updated 1/15/21\)](#)
- 4.** House Officers rotating at sites other than AUMC (e.g. MCG Regional Campuses, the Department of Veterans Affairs, etc.), should review site-specific guidelines and check in with the rotation coordinator to see if additional preparation is required.
- 5.** House Officers should continuously self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms using the following checklist:
 - Do you have new muscle aches not related to another medical condition or another specific activity (e.g. due to physical exercise)?
 - Do you have a temperature of greater than 100.0°F?
 - Do you have sore throat not related to another medical condition (e.g. allergies)?
 - Do you have a new or worsening cough not related to another medical condition?
 - Do you have shortness of breath not related to another medical condition?
 - Do you have recent (<5 days) loss of smell and/or taste?
 - Do you have new onset of vomiting or diarrhea not related to another medical condition?
- 6.** House Officers who answer **“yes”** to any of the questions above should refer to the [COVID-19 Quarantine, Isolation and Testing Guidelines](#). If they have not received 2 vaccine doses and are required to isolate, they must:
 - Notify their on-site clinical supervisor and Program Director as soon as possible
 - If they are on clinical duty at the time, they should ensure safe hand-off of all patient care duties and leave the clinical environment immediately
 - Contact [Employee Health and Wellness](#) at **706-721-3418**
 - Call **706-721-1852** to schedule COVID-19 testing as soon as possible
- 7.** If the onset of symptoms is severe and/or rapid and represents a medical emergency, House Officers should report directly to the Emergency Department, or call **911**.

- 8.** House Officers who undergo COVID-19 testing because they developed COVID-19 symptoms and have not received 2 vaccine doses, should remain in isolation as directed in the [COVID-19 Quarantine, Isolation and Testing Guidelines](#). They must be cleared by [Employee Health and Wellness](#) prior to returning to clinical duty.

- 9.** A close contact with a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 case is defined as:
 - Closer than 3 feet for 3 minutes without a mask
 - Within 6 feet for greater than 15 minutes in a non-healthcare setting
 - Physical contact (e.g. touching) without using PPE

- 10.** House Officers who experience a close contact should refer to the [COVID-19 Quarantine, Isolation and Testing Guidelines](#). If they have not received 2 vaccine doses and require testing, House Officers are allowed to remain on clinical duty, but must:
 - Wear a mask at all times around others
 - Closely self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for 10 days
 - Call **706-721-1852** to arrange for COVID-19 testing to be done 5 days after the exposure

- 11.** If House Officers who have not received 2 vaccine doses remain on duty after a close contact, but develop COVID-19 symptoms they must:
 - Ensure safe hand-off of all patient care duties and leave the clinical environment immediately
 - Notify their on-site clinical supervisor and Program Director as soon as possible
 - Contact [Employee Health and Wellness](#) at **706-721-3418** to discuss return to work procedures

- 12.** House Officers should limit personal and professional travel. Those who have not received 2 vaccine doses and are returning from travel to high risk areas will be required to remain in quarantine for 14 days regardless of the presence or absence of symptoms.

- 13.** House Officers who meet any of the criteria listed below and have not received 2 vaccine doses should consider discussing them with their Program Director to evaluate their rotation schedule and the need for a temporary medical exemption from clinical care:
 - Personally immunocompromised, or living with someone who is immunocompromised
 - Pregnant
 - Any other personal concerns about safety

- 14.** Additional resources:
 - [MCG Graduate Medical Education Office: 706-721-7005; Ext. 0](#)
 - [AU Employee Health and Wellness: 706-721-3418](#)
 - [AU Employee/Faculty Assistance Program: 706-721-2599](#)
 - [Georgia Crisis and Access Line: 1-800-715-4225](#)
 - [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK \(8255\)](#)
 - [CDC COVID-19 Information](#)