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.

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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

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