

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 frequently updated, Program Directors and House Officers should periodically check this document for modifications. Such modifications will be **highlighted** in the document until the next update is made.

1. 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.
2. Prior to beginning a clinical rotation, House Officers should thoroughly review the [AUMC COVID-19 Resource](#) website. Special attention should be paid to the following:
 - [PPE Guidance](#)
 - [Mask Guidance](#)
 - [Procedures for Donning/Doffing PPE](#)
 - [SARS-CoV-2 Testing Algorithm](#)
3. 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.
4. Beginning 10 days prior to and throughout any clinical rotation, House Officers should 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)? (If so, take temperature)
 - Do you feel like you may have a temperature of greater than 100.0°F? (If so, take temperature)
 - 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?
5. House Officers who answer “**yes**” to any of the questions above should:
 - STAY AT HOME.
 - If they are on duty at the onset of symptoms, House Officers will 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**.
 - Call the COVID-19 Hotline at **706-721-1852** to schedule SARS-CoV-2 testing.
6. 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**.
7. House Officers who are tested for SARS-CoV-2 **due to COVID-19 symptoms** and are awaiting

results should **stay home**, even if they become asymptomatic. If their test is **negative**, House Officers will need to be cleared by Employee Health and Wellness prior to returning to clinical duty.

- 8.** House Officers who test positive for SARS-CoV-2 should remain **at home in isolation** for:
 - At least **7 days** after the positive test/onset of symptoms, **followed by**;
 - **3 additional days** without fever (without anti-inflammatories or anti-pyretic medications) or other COVID-19 symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, etc.)

Once these criteria are met (**10 days minimum**), House Officers will need to be cleared by Employee Health and Wellness prior to returning to clinical duty.

- 9.** An “exposure” is defined as being three or fewer feet away from a SARS-CoV-2 positive patient for three or more minutes without wearing proper PPE, most importantly a mask and eye protection (**3 for 3 without PPE**). House Officers who have an exposure, or who have symptomatic or known SARS-CoV-2 positive close contacts/household members are allowed to remain on clinical duty, but must:
 - Notify Infection Prevention of the exposure at **706-721-2224**
 - Perform temperature monitoring twice per day.
 - Wear a surgical-grade mask or N95 respirator (if available) at all times while at work.
 - Closely self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms as detailed in Item 4.
 - Follow the protocol as detailed in Item 5 if they develop COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Call the COVID-19 Hotline at **706-721-1852** to schedule SARS-CoV-2 testing to be completed at least **4 days** after the exposure.

Note: House Officers who undergo SARS-CoV-2 testing **due to exposure alone** can remain at work according to the guidelines above as long as they remain **free of COVID-19 symptoms**.

- 10.** House Officers should limit personal and professional travel. Those 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.

- 11.** House Officers who meet any of the following criteria should consider discussing them with their Program Director to evaluate their rotation schedule and consider a temporary medical exemption from clinical care:

- Personally immunocompromised
- Pregnant
- Household member who is immunocompromised
- Any other personal concerns about safety

- 12.** Additional resources:

[AU Employee Health and Wellness: 706-721-3418](#)

[AU Counseling & Psychological Services: 706-737-1471](#)

[Georgia Crisis and Access Line: 1-800-715-4225](#)

[CDC COVID-19 Information](#)