Texas Christian University
Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences
TCU Nursing
Protocol for Student, Staff and Faculty COVID-19 Exposure
Updated/Approved August 24, 2020

This protocol is based on the guidance from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and will be updated based on emergent data and public health recommendations.

Purpose

There are increased risks for exposure to COVID-19 in community settings and during a nursing clinical/practicum involving regular engagement in on-site, in-person activities in the health care setting. Students, staff and faculty are expected to follow the CDC's recommendations for protection in the community, and; abide by their clinical site's infection control policies to minimize exposure to respiratory pathogens including SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. This protocol serves as a directive for addressing the incidence of student, staff and/or faculty unintended exposure to COVID-19 or Person Under Investigation (PUI) during a clinical/practicum course or in the community.

Clinical Information and Restrictions Regarding COVID-19

- Students will receive information regarding infection control, precautions, and restrictions for their clinical course with specific instructions regarding their assigned facility's current policies.
- Students are not be permitted in COVID-19 designated units.
- Students may not enter the room of or provide care for a COVID-19 positive patient or PUI.
- Students cannot provide care for a patient using isolation protocols requiring the use of an N95 mask.
- Students will receive separate information regarding infection control, precautions, and restrictions for on campus lab and simulation courses. See HPLC Health Protocol found on the TCU Nursing Resource page: https://harriscollege.tcu.edu/nursing/resources/undergraduate/

Exposure to Person with Confirmed COVID-19 or PUI During Clinical/Practicum

If a student is inadvertently exposed to a patient, visitor, or healthcare personnel (HCP) with confirmed COVID-19 or who is a PUI, the student must go to a non-patient care area (such as a break room) and contact their faculty immediately. The student must report the exposure to their faculty as soon as it is known.

Faculty will meet with student to discuss exposure incident and identify the next steps based on CDC guidelines (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html). The table below provides a guide for required actions based on the situation in which the exposure took place .

Guidance for Exposure to COVID-19 Positive Person[a] or PUI During Clinical/Practicum, Lab, or Simulation Course

IF	THEN
Wearing appropriate PPE according to CDC recommended & facility's guidelines and adhering to infection control measures (hand hygiene) while with a COVID-19 positive person[a] or PUI	• Faculty completes the COVID Incident Report Form. • No restrictions for returning to clinical and on-campus classes. • Faculty will follow-up with clinical site for test results of PUI. • Student should monitor themselves for symptoms consistent with COVID-19[b]
NOT wearing a facemask (surgical facemask supplied by TCU Nursing or Clinical Site) while with a COVID-19 positive person[a] or PUI	• Faculty completes the COVID Incident Report Form. • Student will be restricted from clinical and on-campus classes for 14 consecutive days from exposure if they have not developed symptoms or were not tested for COVID-19. • Student to monitor themselves for symptoms consistent with COVID-19[b] • Faculty will follow-up with clinical site for test results of PUI. • If test results are negative, student can return to clinical and on-campus classes.
Person with COVID-19[a] or PUI was NOT wearing facemask & the faculty/staff/student was not wearing required PPE (to include eye protection as needed). *For example, a student is in a breakroom with an HCP who removed their mask and is coughing. The student is wearing a mask, but not a shield or eye protection. The HCP is sent for testing and becomes a PUI. Even though the student is wearing a mask according to protocol, their risk for infection is increased because of not having eye protection and the PUI not wearing any protection.*	
Not wearing the recommended PPE during an aerosol-generating procedure on a COVID-19 positive patient or PUI.	
Developed COVID-19 Illness within the previous 3 months **and** has recovered **and** remains without COVID-19 symptoms	Does **NOT** need to stay home (self-isolate) (08/16/2020; CDC reference)

[a]COVID-19 positive person may be patient, visitor, or HCP in a clinical setting or faculty, staff or student in on campus lab or simulation setting

[b]Any student, staff or faculty who develop fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should immediately self-isolate and contact their clinical faculty or supervisor and their health care provider to arrange for medical evaluation and testing.

[c]Any student, staff, or faculty positively diagnosed with COVID-19 prior to following the steps in "b" above should immediately contact the TCU COVID-19 Self-Report Hotline: 817-257-2684, and immediately after that contact their clinical faculty or supervisor

Clinical Situations in Which Exposure May Occur

Even with facility and TCU guidelines regarding patient and unit assignments for students, there will be situations in which students may be exposed to COVID-19 included, but not limited to:

- Assisting with care/treatment of patient who has not been tested or is waiting results (PUI).
- Exposure to healthcare personnel or employees who are being tested or become symptomatic during shift.
- Assisting with patient who becomes symptomatic during shift.
- Exposure to a visitor who becomes symptomatic during shift, later tests positive for COVID-19, or reports recent exposure to someone with COVID-19.

COVID Incident Report Forms

The Incident Report form is located in D2L/Brightspace in TCU Nursing Central.
→D2L/Brightspace (TCU Online)
    →Master Fall & Spring Courses
        →TCU Nursing Central
           →Content
               →COVID Related Information
                   →Protocols and Forms

The COVID Incident Report Form is to be completed within 24 hours of the student reporting the incident. The original goes to TCU Nursing Assessment and Evaluation Coordinator, and copies should be distributed to Program Director(s), Course Coordinator, student, Associate Dean and, Regulatory and Compliance Coordinator. If follow up information is required (such as test results), please note that on the form, communicate to all involved, and provide the expected date for follow up information.

Community Exposure

If student has known community exposure (close contact) to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the student must call the TCU COVID-19 Self-Reporting Hotline at 817-257-2684 and contact their faculty of record prior to their next scheduled class day (clinical or on campus).

- Factors to consider when defining close contact include proximity, the duration of exposure (e.g., longer exposure time likely increases exposure risk), and whether the exposure was to a person with symptoms (e.g., coughing likely increases exposure risk).

Following review of exposure details, and in consultation with Course Coordinator, Clinical Placement Coordinator, Director of Undergraduate Nursing and Associate Dean,

- In cases of community exposure or positive COVID-19 diagnoses, the Clinical Placement Coordinator will notify the appropriate clinical facility educational liaison that a student was in their facility that has a known community exposure (close contact) to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Course faculty of record will communicate the required next steps with the student.

Faculty Responsibility after Receiving Notification from Student who has beeen Exposure or is Positive COVID-19

To help students remain on their planned progression toward graduation, TCU Nursing Administration will track student absences related to COVID-19 illness or exposure along with the plan to make-up missing clinical days and assignments. After faculty receives notification from a student about an exposure or positive COVID-19 test result, verify the student has notified the TCU COVID-19 Self-Reporting Hotline and refer the student to do so if they have not. Faculty must contact the TCU Administrator below based on the student's cohort and provide them with the student name, date of exposure or COVID-19 test, missed work or clinical/lab/sim, make-up plan, and estimated return date.

Senior II, ABT 2, & Sophomore II	Suzy Lockwood
Senior I	Caitlin Dodd
Junior II	Lynnette Howington
Junior I, ABT 1	Dot Bartell

After the student returns, faculty must provide information regarding the student's actual return date and the date missed work or clinical/lab/sim was completed. All provided information will be kept confidential. Faculty and staff are not to share this information with other TCU employees who are not involved with the student's current courses or other students.

Returning to Class after Positive Test Results

Students will be required to isolate until the following conditions of recovery are met:
- Released by a TCU Health Center clinician
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and
- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
- Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved

TCU COVID-19 Reporting Hotline

Students, staff and faculty who test positive for COVID-19 or have been exposed should call the TCU COVID-19 Reporting Hotline 817-257-2684 for care and assistance.

Faculty/Supervisors who are informed by students about positive COVID-19 diagnoses should also contact the TCU COVID-19 Self-Report Hotline: 817-257-2684 to ensure that student reporting occurs.

For employees (staff and faculty), this will also initiate follow-up from TCU Care Coordinators, Human Resources, contact tracing and TCU Facilities. Supervisors also may use this number to report an employee who has a confirmed positive test. Supervisors are allowed to report on behalf of employees only if the employee is not able to self-report.

Definitions:

Close Contact: A close contact is someone who

- Lives in the same house or residence hall room as a sick person with COVID-19
- Cares for a sick person with COVID-19
- Has been within 6 feet of a sick person with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or longer
- Has been in direct contact with secretions from a sick person with COVID-19

Exposure: Having close contact with a patient, visitor, or HCP with confirmed COVID-19. Exposure is considered prolonged if it lasted longer than 15 minutes or exposure occurred during a performance of an aerosol generating procedure (suction airway, sputum induction, intubation, extubation, bronchoscopy, CPR, manual ventilation. More about aerosol generating procedures found here https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-faq.html)

References:

CDC. (Aug 16,2020). When you can be around others after you had or likely had COVID-19. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html

CDC. (May 18, 2020). Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Healthcare Settings. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html

CDC. (May 29, 2020). Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Work Restrictions for Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure to COVID-19. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html

CDC. (April 30, 2020). Criteria for Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 (Interim Guidance) https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhealthcare-facilities%2Fhcp-return-work.html

CDC. (April 24, 2020). How to Protect Yourself & Others. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html