

UMSON Return to Clinical/Experiential Learning and Return to Face-to-Face Simulation

University of Maryland School of Nursing Return to Clinical/Experiential Learning and Return to Face-to-Face Simulation

Prepared by Ann Mech and Dean Kirschling –June 8, 2020 (updated)

1. Contact: Ann Mech, amech@umaryland.edu
2. Description of request – The School of Nursing (SON) has almost 2,000 students in baccalaureate, Master’s and doctoral programs. All programs require learning experiences in health care and / or social services sites in either direct patient care, indirect patient care or both. Sites include acute care hospitals, inpatient psychiatric facilities, skilled nursing facilities, physician practices, urgent care centers and retail clinics, Head Start and K-12 schools, senior centers and clinics for the homeless. Individuals served range from the critically ill to members of the community who are relatively healthy.

The SON is requesting the return to clinical learning at the start of the summer 2020 session for MSN Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) entry level students for whom this will be the only opportunity in their programs for OB and pediatric patient care experiences. These students will also engage in limited face-to-face simulation for purposes of task acquisition and checkoff. The SON also requests the return to clinical learning in the summer 2020 session for its nurse practitioner and nurse anesthesia students, all of whom need a prescribed number of direct patient care hours and cases throughout their programs in order to qualify for certification upon graduation. The SON already had a nurse anesthesia student fail to graduate in May 2020, due to a lack of pediatric anesthesia cases after clinical rotations ceased mid-semester. Nurse practitioner and nurse anesthesia students are licensed as Registered Nurses and, therefore, have completed the necessary professional education to safely practice in health care settings.

In the fall, 2020, semester, the SON anticipates the need to return all students to clinical experiences except for first-semester entry-level students (BSN and MSN CNL). These students normally have clinical experiences in skilled nursing facilities. The SON believes the COVID-19 exposure risk will continue to be too high in skilled nursing facilities this fall for first-semester students to safely practice there. The SON plans to use its onsite simulation labs – manikin and Standardized Patient (SP) – in lieu of learning experiences in skilled nursing facilities. Additional students will also engage in face-to-face simulation, including with standardized patients as appropriate to the learning activity and when the learning cannot be accomplished through virtual delivery.

Locations: The clinical experiences in the summer session will be held in acute care hospitals in Maryland for the CNL’s OB and pediatric experiences, as well as the nurse anesthesia and certain nurse practitioner placements (the UMMS hospitals). Other nurse practitioner students will be placed in physician practices in Maryland providing care via both telehealth and in-office visits. The SON will not place students in skilled nursing facilities this summer due to COVID-19 infections and no-visitor policies currently prevalent in these sites.

In the fall, 2020, semester, the SON will utilize its full spectrum of clinical sites in Maryland, DC and Virginia for all students, with the exception of its first semester BSN and CNL students who

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would normally be placed in skilled nursing facilities. It is possible skilled nursing facilities could be used for clinical training of the adult / geriatric nurse practitioner students, who are already Registered Nurses. The decision to utilize skilled nursing facilities will depend on the COVID-19 infection rate and local policies in the sites as well as the jurisdictions in which they are located. Clinical sites utilized for other students will predominately be in Maryland, DC and Virginia. The SON has online MSN programs with students in other states. Those students will have practicum placements, when possible, in acute care facilities. However, those practica are in indirect care roles – management and informatics - so the risk of exposure to COVID-19 patients is lessened.

In both the summer and fall, clinical experiences in settings outside of UMB will be augmented by simulation training within the School of Nursing buildings at Baltimore and the Universities at Shady Grove. Both social distancing (113 sq. ft. person) and percentage of building occupancy (based on numbers of students, faculty and staff) will be factored into scheduling of simulation. Learners and instructional personnel will wear cloth masks when in the buildings. When in close contact with the SPs, both student and SP will wear a surgical/ procedural facemask. Cleaning of equipment between users and at the end of the day will be done according to CDC guidelines, as well as recommendations from the manufacturers of medical equipment and manikins.

3. Course Number or Designation: Courses with an experiential learning component are listed regardless of semester offered. Students completing Incompletes from this spring's courses will be engaged in experiential learning experiences in the summer or fall of 2020, along with students enrolled in the summer and fall course offerings.

BSN: N317, N319, N327, N329, N411, N417, N421, N429, N467

MSN CNL: N503, N505, N509, N517, N514, N508, N511, N523

MSN: N733, N738, N753, N695

DNP: NDNP 808, NDNP 810, NDNP 811, NDNP 812, NDNP 813, NDNP 817, NDNP 821, NDNP 823, NDNP 825, NDNP 827, NDNP 828, NDNP 829, NDNP 831, NDNP 833, NDNP 835, NDNP 837, NDNP 838, NDNP 839, NDNP 841, NDNP 843, NDNP 845, NDNP 847, NDNP 851, NDNP 853, NDNP 855, NDNP 857, NDNP 859, NDNP 865, NDNP 867, NDNP 868, NDNP 869, NDNP 871, NDNP 873, NDNP 875, NDNP 876, NDNP 877, NDNP 878, NDNP 895, NDNP 897, NDNP 898, NDNP 899

4. Rationale – Requirements of accrediting agencies and state boards of nursing mandate care of patients across the lifespan in a variety of clinical sites. In order to fulfill requirements, return to actual patient care experiences is critical. The SON was granted special exception to be able to utilize virtual simulation during the spring semester by the Maryland Board of Nursing. However, multiple semesters using simulation will result in students in all programs being unable to graduate because of failure to fulfill practice requirements.
5. UMB Support Functions Consulted:
 - a. Parking and Transportation Services will be contacted on June 2, 2020 by Bill Gardiner who is UMSON representative to Campus Operations Focus Area regarding possibility for UMSON CNL students who are placed at UMMC for 2:00-10:00 pm clinical rotations

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- to part in Penn garage (vs. Lexington garage). Will also be notified that cohorts of students will be on campus, both for UMMC clinicals and for face-to-face simulation.
- b. Student Health will be contacted by Ann Mech on June 1, 2020 regarding UMSO CNL students beginning clinical rotations on June 15, 2020.
 - c. Environmental Services was contacted on May 29, 2020 by Dean Kirschling regarding recommended cleaning of simulation labs between students.
 - d. Matt Rietschel is UMSO representative on Information Technology Focus Area. He will notify the leads on June 2, 2020 although nothing is needed at this time.
 - e. University Counsel will be contacted by Ann Mech on June 1, 2020 although nothing is needed at this time.
 - f. Student Services will be contacted by Larry Fillian on June 2, 2020 although nothing is needed at this time.
6. Learners: For summer – MSN Clinical Nurse Leader entry level students (2nd and 3rd semester) and DNP Advanced Practice students. For fall – all students enrolled in a degree program that requires direct and indirect clinicals.
 7. Learner Preparation: Students in the BSN and MSN CNL entry-level programs routinely receive education in infection control practices before beginning direct patient care. This education has occurred for Summer 2020 reentry into clinical sites and will be reinforced throughout the remainder of the students clinical education. Students in the other graduate programs are Registered Nurses who have completed their entry-level programs and are competent in infection control practices. In addition, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing has developed an educational video to prepare nurses in the care of patients / clients in the COVID-19 era. To reinforce aspects of infection control, CastleBranch (the school's vendor for tracking clinical compliance requirements) has obtained a handwashing video tutorial with quiz. Students will be required to complete both tutorials in order to be placed in clinical experiences.
 8. Learner Protection: Students will be notified of the conditions set forth for engaging in clinical/experiential learning and face-to-face simulation in the respective course syllabi which are available in Blackboard. The Course Coordinator will also reinforce the information during virtual class times, with entry-level clinical instructors, and will assure that preceptors working advanced practice students have the information as well. In the case that a student does not feel safe, they will be instructed to immediately notify the course coordinator, as well as the appropriate academic associate dean.
 9. Environment: Beyond on-campus learning, students will be placed individually at clinical sites as well as in clinical groups of up to 8 students. Clinical sites set limits on numbers of students in clinical groups. In direct patient / client care activities, students and their instructors will not be able to maintain a social distance of 113 sq. ft. Students and instructors will, however, wear the PPE appropriate to the clinical experience. For example, the SON's nurse anesthesia students will wear the full barrier PPE of an anesthesia provider. In other hospital units, where known COVID-19 patients are not treated, the standard would be surgical/ procedural facemasks with eye protection (goggles or face shield) when near the patient's respiratory droplets. Students in a medical office will wear the PPE worn by the other health care providers, which may consist of a surgical/ procedural facemask when examining or treating patients and a cloth face mask at all other times.

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10. Supervision: Entry level students are supervised in small groups by a clinical instructor (typically 6 students/instructor but may be less given various requirements of clinical sites). Advanced practice students are supervised by preceptor in a one to one ratio. Course coordinators are responsible for assuring that the learners' supervision is consistent with the conditions set out by UMB, UMSON, and the clinical site.
11. Screening – The SON will use its existing compliance vendor, CastleBranch, as the repository of student screening data. Students will take and upload daily body temperature, which will be flagged if greater than 100.4° F. Students will complete separate screening forms for COVID-19 symptoms, exposure to COVID-19 positive individuals and travel history. These forms will be completed at the start of the semester, as well as at the frequency determined by the clinical site. If students are exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual or themselves develop symptoms, they are instructed to seek care from their own health care providers or through UMB student health. (Since SON students live throughout Maryland and surrounding jurisdictions, convenience dictates where they seek care.) Students are also encouraged to report their exposure through the UMB COVID-19 hotline to facilitate contact tracing on campus.
12. Tracking: The SON's STEPS clinical assignment database can identify the location of a student in clinical practice on any day of the week, if contact tracing becomes necessary. The SON's student affairs office maintains phone and email contact information on students in case a student needs to be reached for COVID-19 contact follow-up.
13. Exemptions: Any request to modify the conditions set forth by UMB, UMSON or the clinical site will be directed to Ann Mech and the appropriate academic dean for review and recommendation to the Dean.

Other Questions:

14. How will any didactic sessions be handled? Didactic will be delivered virtual for summer and potentially will extend into the Fall semester, unless presented and approved through a separate proposal.
15. Where will learners go for breaks, lunch, rest, and to do work? This will be determined with each clinical site with the goal of assuring social/physical distancing and wearing appropriate PPE.
16. Who is providing and renewing supplies such as PPE and scrubs? The clinical sites will be providing PPE appropriate to the situation. Students are responsible for providing their scrubs (entry-level students) and for purchasing a thermometer for daily self-screening.
17. How will students be educated about what to do if they develop symptoms or experience a COVID-19 contact while at a site? UMSON has provided students with UMB's information at its website – COVID-19 UMSON Operations. In addition, this information will be included in all course syllabi for Summer and Fall semesters.