

UMSON Summer 2020 and Fall 2020 Program Delivery

University of Maryland School of Nursing Return to Clinical/Experiential Learning and Return to Face-to-Face Simulation Updated to include Fall 2020 Plans

Prepared by Ann Mech and Dean Kirschling – July 13, 2020 (updated)

1. Contact: Ann Mech, amech@umaryland.edu and Jane Kirschling, kirschling@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, medical practices, urgent care centers and retail clinics, Head Start and K-12 schools, senior centers and clinics for persons experiencing homelessness. Individuals served range from the critically ill to members of the community who are relatively healthy.

The SON has, and will continue, to provide all didactic instruction virtually (i.e., last half of Spring 2020, Summer 2020, and Fall 2020 semesters). The SON was previously approved by UMB to 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 obstetrics 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 was approved for 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. 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 for entry-level students (BSN and MSN CNL) in the in the summer and fall sessions will be held in acute care hospitals in Maryland, as well as the nurse anesthesia and certain nurse practitioner placements (e.g., UMMS hospitals). Other nurse practitioner students will be placed in medical practices in Maryland providing care via both telehealth and in-office visits. The SON will not place students in skilled nursing facilities for the fall session (and didn't for the summer session) due to COVID-19 infections and no-visitor policies currently prevalent in these sites.

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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 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.

During the summer of 2020, UMSON is contacting clinical sites to arrange fall placements. Two areas of concern are emerging: psychiatric placements and placements within the MedStar Health System.

Psychiatric nursing placement coordinators at clinical sites, including free-standing psychiatric hospitals and psychiatric units within acute care hospitals, have said psychiatric units are closed to all students. Fortunately, the school's psychiatric nurse practitioner students do have placement opportunities in outpatient settings. However, entry level BSN and MSN CNL students will not have the opportunity for actual psychiatric inpatient experiences that are a regular feature of their curricula.

MedStar Health has sent UMB schools (nursing and pharmacy) a contract addendum MedStar portrayed as a condition of return of students to MedStar facilities. Other USM schools of nursing also received the addendum. The proposed terms allow MedStar to assign students to COVID-19 patients (in practicum placements MedStar staff make patient assignments). The terms also place responsibility on the schools for adverse health consequences the student may sustain as a result of exposure to COVID-19. The addendum was sent to the Maryland Attorney General's Office to negotiate. UMSON hopes there will be a speedy resolution. MedStar placements are essential to the nurse anesthesia specialty, and other programs both undergraduate and graduate rely on MedStar health for clinical and practicum experiences.

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 physical distancing 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 and face shield. 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.

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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: NURS 637, NURS 657, NURS 673, NURS 674, NURS 676, NDNP 808, NDNP 810, NDNP 811, NDNP 812, NDNP 813, NDNP 817, NDNP 819, 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 848, NDNP849, NDNP 851, NDNP 853, NDNP 855, NDNP 857, NDNP 858, 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 to be Consulted:
 - a. Parking and Transportation Services will be contacted by Bill Gardiner who is UMSON representative to Campus Operations Focus Area regarding cohorts of students being on campus, both for UMMC clinicals and for face-to-face simulation.
 - b. Environmental Services was contacted by Bill Gardiner regarding recommended cleaning of simulation labs between students.
 - c. Environmental Health Services' (EHS) Fit Testers are assisting in the fit-testing of students for N95 and elastomeric respirators from May through July at UMMC by UMMC staff. When UMMC's fit testing function closes at the end of July, EHS will be called upon to provide Fit Testers for students and clinical instructors who will be participating in patient care experiences in acute care hospitals in the fall. On-campus space and supplies will also be needed for fit-testing for N95 and elastomeric respirators.
 - d. Matt Rietschel is UMSON representative on Information Technology Focus Area. He has been involved in SAFE implementation for students returning to campus. Mr. Rietschel and Dr. Marg Hammersla are working closely with the developers of the SAFE program, including pilot testing with nursing students.
 - e. Student Services will be contacted by Larry Fillian 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

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infection control practices. In addition, UMMC has shared COVID-19-focused videos and PowerPoint presentations students must watch before beginning clinical experiences. The videos highlight infection control practices and, in particular, the donning and doffing process for PPE. Students are also required to review a statement of risk for any clinical experience in the COVID-19 era. Students are required to sign an attestation they have reviewed the educational materials and the statement of risk in order to be placed in clinical experiences starting this summer.

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 physical distance. 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.

The School of Nursing has purchased, or has on order, elastomeric respirators, face shields, and medical masks. Students and clinical instructors have been, or will be, fit tested for a N95 and elastomeric respirator and they will have completed training in donning and doffing PPE. The fit testing and donning and doffing efforts have been supported by the University of Maryland Medical Center and the Chief Nursing Officer has been instrumental in providing needed guidance and resources. When UMMC's fit testing function closes at the end of July, EHS Fit Testers will be needed to continue fit testing students not yet tested and adjunct clinical instructors who will be hired in August.

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 clinical tracking program, STEPS, as the repository of selected student pre-clinical education completion. In addition, students and clinical instructors will use RedCap/SAFE symptom screening each day they will be on campus or going to a clinical learning experience. If students are exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual or they themselves develop symptoms, they are told not to go to campus or clinical experiences and to

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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 virtually for summer and the fall semester.
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? Students will be required to have a solid colored cloth mask. SON will provide students with supply of medical masks, a face shield and the elastomeric respirators/filters. The clinical sites will provide additional PPE appropriate to the situation. Students are responsible for providing their scrubs (entry-level students).
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.